





With  
Best Wishes for Christmas  
and for  
The New Year

<sup>from</sup>  
Anthony & Caroline Lyttelton

Living at New House corner  
Lymington at 145<sup>th</sup> St  
New York

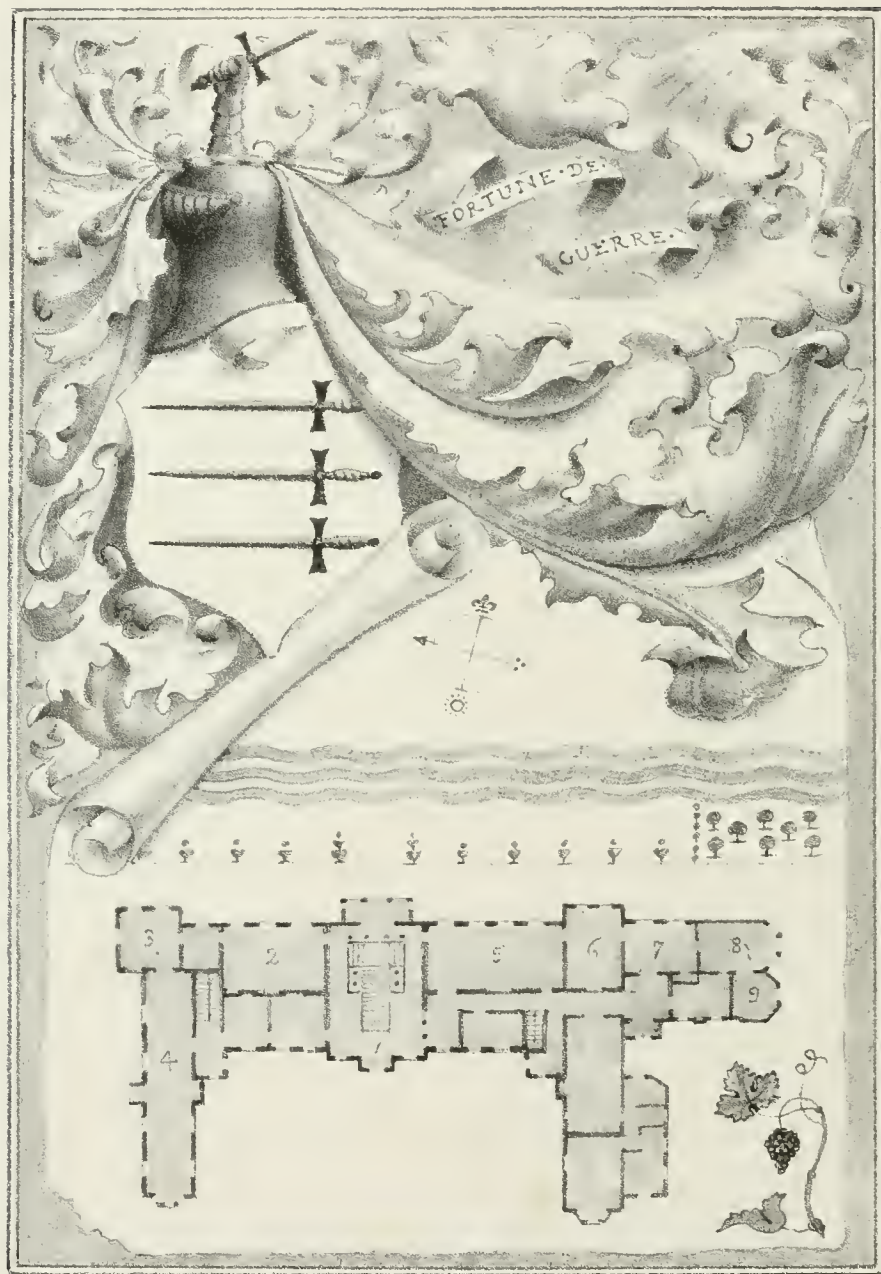




# THE VYNE







A HISTORY  
*of*  
THE VYNE  
*in Hampshire.*

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*being a short account of the building &  
antiquities of that house situate in the  
parish of Sherborne St. John Co. Hunts  
& of persons who have  
at some time  
lived there.*

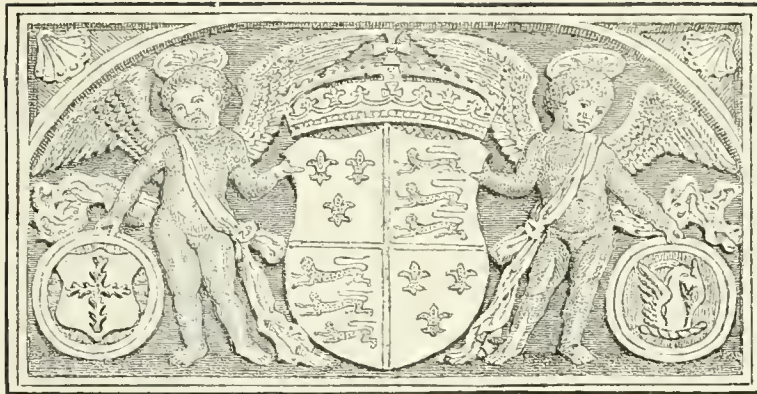


*by* CHALONER W. CHUTE.  
OF THE VYNE.

Jacob & Johnson, Winchester.  
Simpkin, Marshall & Co. London.

1888.



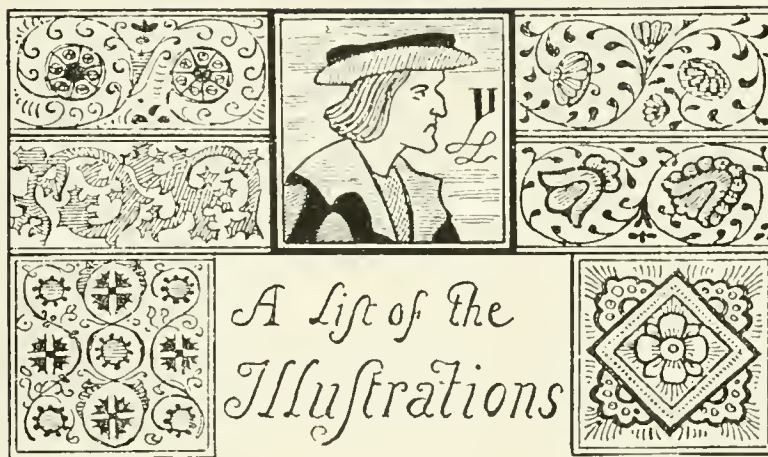


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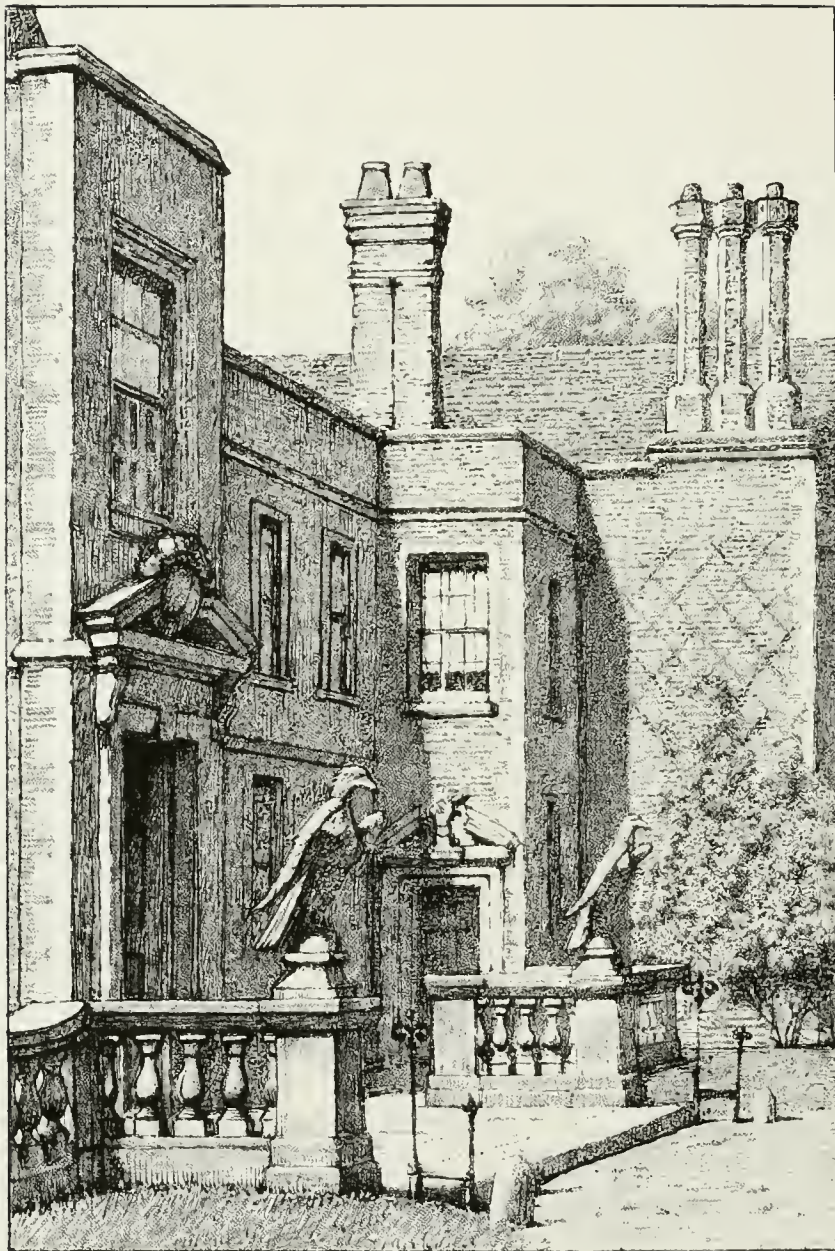
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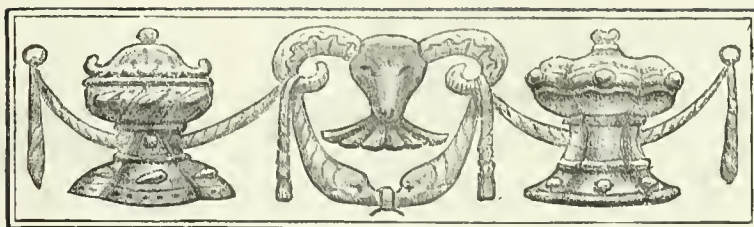
*The best thanks of the writer of this book are due to Mr. Lionel Muirhead, who has contributed all the Illustrations, except the copy of the Great Seal at page 72, the drawing of the house on page 137, and the plans at page 140.*











## CHAP. I     *The Roman Vindomis.*

---

THE Vyne is situated three miles north of Basingstoke, about four miles south of the boundary between Hampshire and Berkshire, in the parish of Sherborne St. John, where a sudden change takes place from the open chalk hills of central Hampshire to the deeply wooded vale of the Loddon.

It probably occupies the site of the ancient Roman Vindomis, from which its name may be derived, a name which, having been first contracted into "Vynnes,"<sup>1</sup> acquired its present form of "Vyne" or "Vine" at least as early as the fourteenth century. When Horace Walpole presented to John Chute the stone eagles which stand on either side of the entrance to the house (Plate I.), he, no doubt, intended to restore to it somewhat of the Roman character to which it is entitled by its name and origin.

<sup>1</sup> *Deed of April 29, 1268, preserved at the Vyne.*

The source of our acquaintance with Vindomis is a guide book of the ancient Roman roads, called the "Itinerary of Antonine," compiled, according to the best authorities,<sup>2</sup> by Antoninus Pius, the successor of the emperor Hadrian. It describes

<sup>2</sup> *Merivale's History of the Romans under the Empire,* ch. lxvii.

the military roads intersecting the whole of the Roman empire, and the distances of every station through which they passed. That part of it which relates to Britain was probably drawn up about A.D. 120, in which year the emperor Hadrian made a progress through that country, on his way to construct his famous fortifications from the Tyne to Solway Firth.

According to this Itinerary, Vindömis (a name so closely resembling *vini domus*, "the house of wine," as to suggest a halting place for refreshment) was one of those stations just referred to, intended for the defence of the Roman roads; and as such, it would have a permanent entrenched camp with mound and fosse, constructed at some elevated point of the highway; while in the vicinity, occupying some less exposed position, would probably be a villa,<sup>1</sup> for the pleasure and accommodation of the officer in command.

<sup>1</sup> *Merivale's History of the Romans under the Empire*, ch. lxvi., note.

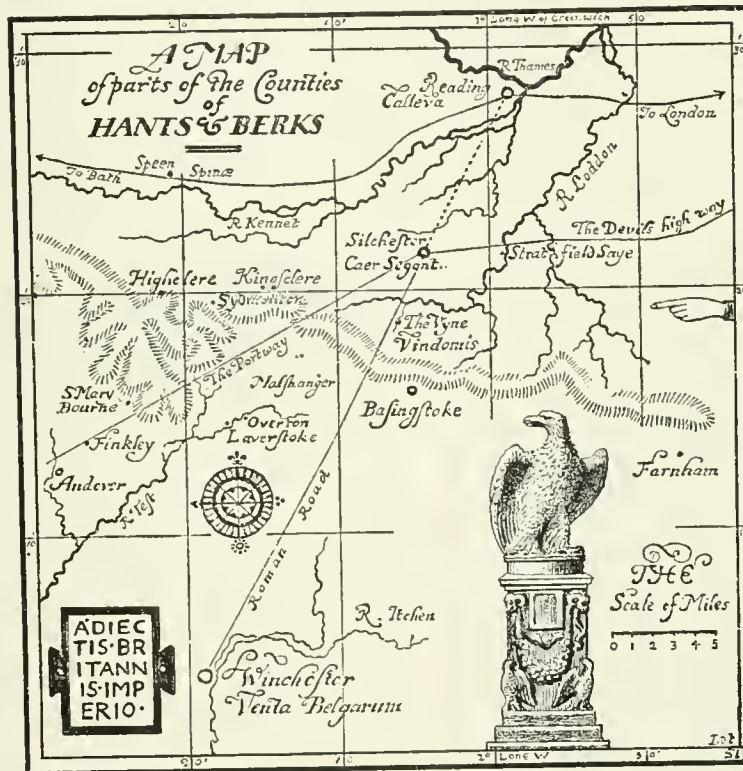
Vindomis is described as situated upon the Roman road between Venta Belgarum and Calleva Atrebatum, twenty-one Roman (about nineteen English) miles from the former, and fifteen Roman (about thirteen English) from the latter.

The Vyne also lies (as may be seen by the map) upon an important Roman road, directly between the towns of Winchester and Reading, about nineteen miles from the former and thirteen from the latter. Traces of a four-square entrenched camp may be seen on this road, where it passes nearest to the Vyne, upon high ground, while the position of the present house would accord well with the probable situation of the officer's villa. It therefore exactly coincides with the description of Vindomis given in the Itinerary, if Venta Belgarum can be identified with



with Winchester, and Calleva Atrebatum with Reading. Now Winchester is by almost universal consent the ancient Venta Belgarum,<sup>1</sup> and the description of Calleva in the Itinerary

<sup>1</sup> Green's  
Making of  
England,  
p. 4.



(thirty-six Roman miles from Winchester, fifteen from Spinæ or Speen near Newbury, twenty-two from Pontes or Staines, and forty-four from London), brings it with reasonable certainty to a point about two miles west of Reading.

A

<sup>1</sup> *Dr. Beeke, Archaeologia*, vol. xv. p. 186.

A succession of writers have accordingly placed Calleva at Reading, and Vindomis at the Vyne. "It is certain," says one,<sup>1</sup> "that Calleva was in the direct road from London to Bath, and consequently must have been in or near Reading, because the nature of the country has caused that the straightest is at the same time the most convenient line between those cities, and that line passes through Reading."

<sup>2</sup> *Keynolds's Itinerary of Antonine*, pp. 292, 368.

Another says<sup>2</sup> of Calleva, that "it has four numbers to agree with, and there is a town with which they agree much better than with any of those that have been proposed, and this is Reading." And of Vindomis the same writer says, that "at no greater distance than four or five miles south of Silchester, Vindomis was seated. The place of it is now marked by a single house only; it is called the Vine; and in Camden's time this name was so ancient that he could not trace the original of it: there seems much reason to think it derived from the ancient Vindomis, of the name of which it retains the first syllable."

<sup>3</sup> *Observations upon certain Roman Roads in the South of Britain*, 1836.

A third, Mr. H. L. Long, in a scholarly pamphlet upon the Roman roads, says<sup>3</sup> that "Calleva was the chief city of the Atrebates, who, in the earliest times of which we have any record, occupied the county of Berks. The modern capital of Berkshire is Reading, and as we find it almost invariably the case that the town which was the original capital of the district still continues to hold its pre-eminence down to our times, it will be but fair to examine the pretensions of Reading, and to observe whether there is anything in its position inconsistent with what we know of the ancient Calleva;" then, after giving reasons for concluding that the site of Calleva was at Reading, and that of Vindomis

Vindomis near Basingstoke, he adds, "The ravages of the Danes, who established themselves in Reading as headquarters in 870, and the total destruction of the town by Henry II. for affording shelter to King Stephen's soldiers, sufficiently account for the disappearance of all remains of the ancient Calleva."

A fourth writer,<sup>1</sup> treating of the British portion of the Itinerary of Antonine, comes to the conclusion that Calleva is represented by Reading, Vindomis by the Vyne, and Venta Belgarum by Winchester.

<sup>1</sup> *John Yonge Akerman's Archæological Index of English Antiquities*, 1847.

Lord Carnarvon took the same view in a paper read to the British Archæological Association in 1860, and said: "I am inclined to think that the preponderance of argument leans towards the identification of Calleva with Reading, and Vindomis with some point between Reading and Winchester."

Finally, an experienced member of the Society of Antiquaries has recently described<sup>2</sup> an exploration which he made of the country about two miles west of Reading, where he discovered evidences of ancient Roman fortifications, and found traces of the name of Calleva in Calvepit Farm, and Coley and Calcot Parks.

<sup>2</sup> *Mr. H. F. Napper in two communications to the Society*, Jan. 25, 1883, and March 13, 1884.

There is indeed a theory which places Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester, but the objections to this view, as a number of writers have pointed out, are, first, that the distance from Winchester to Silchester, being twenty-five miles, does not fit the thirty-six miles which, according to the Itinerary, lay between Calleva and Venta Belgarum; and secondly, that, while there is some evidence that Silchester was called *Caer Segont* or *Segontium*, there is none whatever to show that it ever was known

known as Calleva. Silchester rose, no doubt, into great importance, but at a later date than that of Hadrian, when the Itinerary of Antonine was compiled.

Such are the arguments which lead to the conclusion that the Vyne, as Vindomis, was an ancient resort of the Roman legions, and was probably visited by the emperor Hadrian, the master of the world, when Britain was still regarded as a scarcely civilised country, the most recently subjugated province of his gigantic empire—

“Adjectis Britannis  
Imperio, gravibusque Persis.”

It may be added that no satisfactory site, other than the Vyne, has ever been found for Vindomis: Farnham, Finkley and St. Mary Bourne (see the map, p. 3) have in turn been suggested, but it will be seen that none of these places agree with the conditions required by the Itinerary of Antonine.

Another proposed derivation of the name Vyne, from vines planted on the spot in Roman times, is mentioned as a tradition by Camden,<sup>1</sup> who refers the planting of them here, “more for shade however than for fruit,” to the reign of the Emperor Probus, A.D. 276.

<sup>1</sup> *Britannia*,  
A.D. 1586.

<sup>2</sup> *Political  
Survey of  
Great  
Britain*, A.D.  
1774, vol. i.  
p. 362.

In connexion with these vines, a bold suggestion was made in the last century by Dr. John Campbell,<sup>2</sup> a writer of reputation: “We have had wines,” he says, “in England in different places and in large quantities. The reason of mentioning them particularly in this place is the prevailing opinion that, when the emperor Probus licensed the cultivation of vineyards, they were first planted in this country, at a place which still bears the name  
of

of the Vine. I will venture to suggest what has occurred to me upon this subject, though it should make the reader smile. If our wines in Hampshire may not reach that perfection which is requisite to please our palates, or become fashionable here, they might possibly be exported with great profit to our plantations, and derive from their passage into warmer climates that excellence which cultivation could not give ; and this, perhaps, may also make them worth sending home again ; nor would the accumulation of freight render them dearer to the consumer than the duties that are now laid on wines of foreign growth."

Several Roman remains have been discovered near the Vyne, and, in the latter part of the last century, a gold Roman ring, which has a singular history, was found in its immediate neigh-



bourhood. It bears the head of Venus, and is inscribed with the Latin words, *Seniciane vivas Inde* (i.e. *secunde*) : " O Senicianus, mayest thou live prosperously ! " Its form is shown in the accompanying woodcuts.

Being

Being of gold, it can only have been worn by a senator or knight, or some one whose rank entitled him to the privilege called *jus annuli aurei*.

Juvenal alludes to this privilege and to the weight of such a ring as this being too great a burden in the heat of the summer for degenerate equestrians, in the well-known lines :—

“Ventilet æstivum digitis sudantibus aurum,  
Nec sufferre queat majoris pondera gemmæ.”

By an extraordinary coincidence, in Mr. Bathurst's park at Lydney in Gloucestershire, seventy miles from the Vyne, a small leaden tablet of the fourth century has been found, which apparently advertised the loss of this very ring, and imprecated woe upon Senicianus until he should restore it. This fragile tablet, the preservation of which is in itself a remarkable circumstance, was dug up among the ruins of a temple dedicated to Nodens<sup>1</sup> (a British god of the sea adopted by the Romans), on the walls of which it was formerly fixed.

<sup>1</sup> *Scarth's  
Roman  
Britain,*  
p. 175.

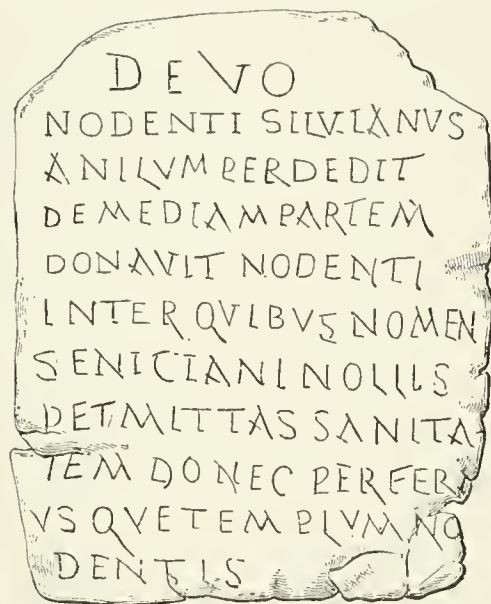
On the opposite page is a representation of the tablet, showing its exact size and the inscription rudely scratched upon it.

The translation of the Latin is as follows: “To the god Nodens: Silvianus has lost a ring: he has vowed the half to Nodens (if he recovers it). Among those who bear the name of Senicianus to none grant health until he bring the ring to the temple of Nodens.”

After the lapse of fifteen centuries, the grounds upon which Silvianus claimed this ring can only be conjectured. Perhaps he had given it to Senicianus in token of friendship, and afterwards



wards had occasion to recall it, or Senicianus may have lost it in a wager and unfairly kept it back. One thing only is clear, that Senicianus, thinking that possession was nine points of the law, declined to part with it; and it has been suggested that he had



his name engraved upon it, accompanied by the wish for his own good health, as a kind of counter-charm to the inscription on the tablet.

The ring, which was exhibited <sup>1</sup> to the Society of Antiquaries in 1786, is preserved at the Vyne, and the tablet is included in Mr. Bathurst's collection of Roman antiquities at Lydney.

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. viii. p. 449.

The Romans left Britain A.D. 426, and the civilisation which they had introduced was speedily obliterated by the Saxons.

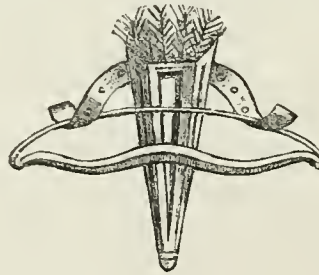
The town of Silchester, whose massive ruined walls enclose the remains, among other buildings, of a stately forum and basilica, with public and private baths, hypocausts, and a circular temple, is only four miles distant from the Vyne, and the inhabitants of Vindomis, lying defenceless on the border of the woodlands, probably took refuge within its gates from the Saxon onset.

There is no more interesting relic in England than the bronze eagle of a Roman standard, now at Stratfieldsaye, which was found at Silchester, buried <sup>1</sup> beneath the charred ruins of a chamber in the forum. Under this standard it is thought that the Romanised Britons rallied in their desperate struggle for existence, and so for the last time, in the words of Cymbeline,

“The British and the Roman standards waved  
Friendly together,”

and then gave way before the attack of the irresistible Saxon.

Thus Vindomis fell at the close of the sixth century, and but for the one fact that the freeman Ulveva held its site at the time of the Domesday survey, a veil is drawn over its history for the period during which the Saxons held the land, not to be lifted until they in their turn yielded to the Norman Conqueror.

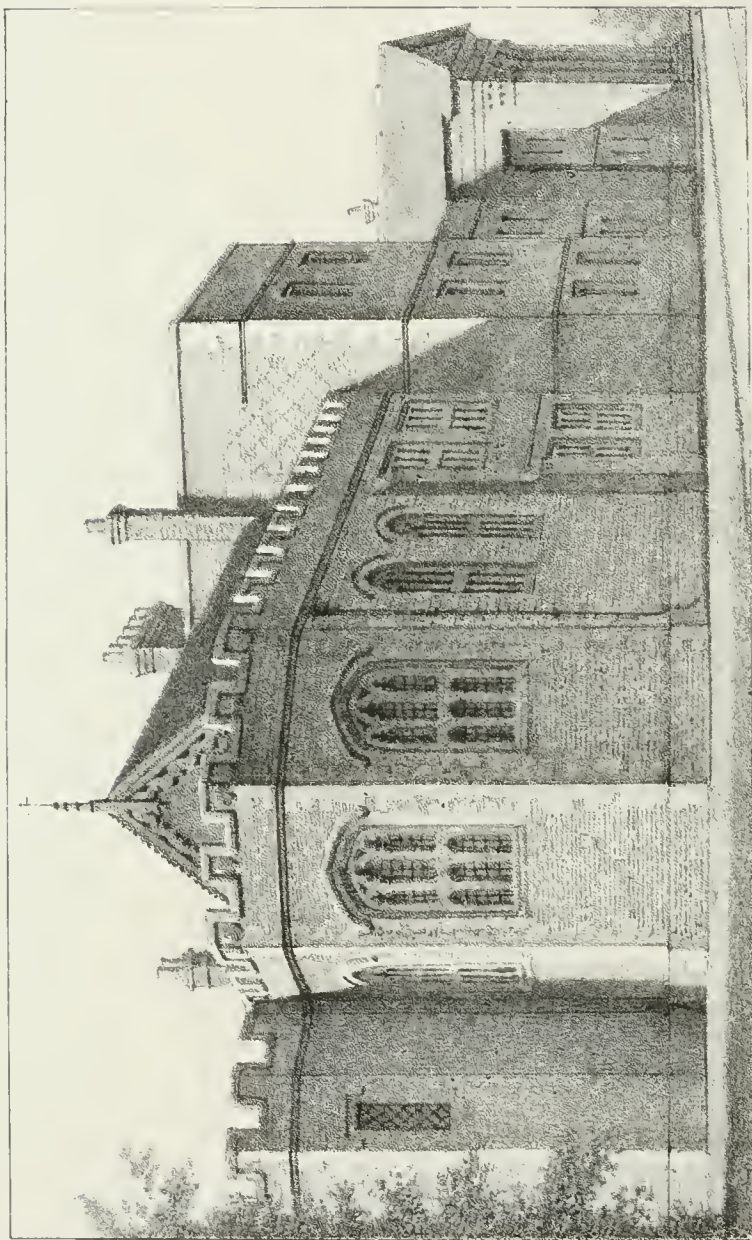


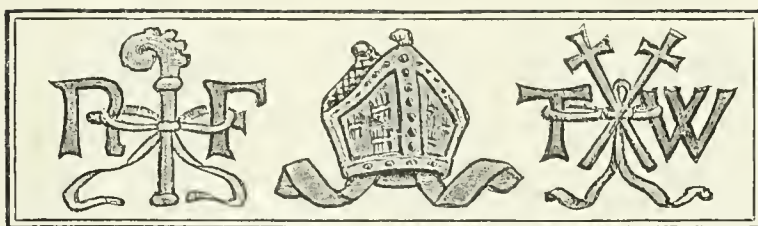
CHAP.

<sup>1</sup> *Green's  
Making of  
England,  
p. 116.  
Memoirs on  
excavations at  
Silchester by  
Rev. J. G.  
Joyce:  
Archæologia,  
vol. xlv.*









## CHAP II      *The Chantry Chapel.*

---

“**A**T the Vine,” wrote<sup>1</sup> Horace Walpole, “is the most heavenly Chapel in the world ; it only wants a few pictures to give it a true Catholic air.” To such a Catholic air it is well entitled, for seven hundred years have elapsed since a Chantry Chapel was first founded at the Vyne and dedicated to the Virgin Mary by John de Port of Basing and his feudal tenant William Fitz-Adam ; and in the present building (Plate II.), erected by the first Lord Sandys, masses “for the faithful departed” were celebrated four hundred years ago with a splendid ceremonial.

<sup>1</sup> *Letter to Sir H. Mann, July 16, 1755.*

John de Port of Basing was born of brave and pious ancestors. His grandfather, Hugh de Port, one of the companions of the Conqueror, received, as the reward of his services, no fewer than seventy lordships, fifty-five of which were in Hampshire. These included Amport, where his descendant the Marquis of Winchester still lives ; Basing, the head of his barony ; and Sherborne, in which the Vyne is situated ; while in the neighbourhood

neighbourhood of the Vyne, Bramley and Bramshill, Candover, Chinham and Church Oakley, Dummer and Ewhurst, Herriard, Hook and Kempshot, Kingsclere and Nately, Stratfieldsaye and Tunworth, Upton Gray and Winslade, are marked as belonging to him in Domesday Book. In his old age he embraced a cloister life, and became a monk at Winchester in the ninth year of William Rufus, A.D. 1096.

Henry de Port, son of Hugh, a baron of the Exchequer under Henry Beauclerc, is known as the founder of the Benedictine Priory of West Sherborne, two miles distant from the Vyne, which was suppressed as an alien priory by Henry V., was afterwards given to Eton College, and now belongs to Queen's College, Oxford. Complaints were made<sup>1</sup> in the reign of Edward IV. against the College, that they allowed "horses and cartes dayly to goo uppon the sepultures of Cristen people in gret nombre buried in the chirch there, whereof moo than xxx sum tyme were worshipfull Barons Knyghtes and Squyers," and that they put a stop to the prayers for the founder and his family. An Act of Parliament was accordingly passed in 1475, compelling the College to maintain a priest at West Sherborne for the due performance of the offices for the dead. An effigy, curiously carved in wood, of one of the De Port family may still be seen in the chancel, which, with the central Norman tower, is all that remains of this Priory Church.

<sup>1</sup> *Rolls of Parliament*  
quoted in  
*Lyte's History*  
of Eton  
College,  
p. 74.

It was John, son of Henry, and grandson of Hugh de Port, who, together with his tenant William FitzAdam, then inhabiting the Vyne, founded and endowed the Chantry Chapel in the twelfth century, during the reign of Henry II.

The

The deed of foundation <sup>1</sup> was in the following terms :—

<sup>1</sup> *Winchester  
Diocesan  
Registry:  
Adam Orleton's  
Book, fol. 42.*

“ROBERTUS DECANUS DE SHIREBURN WILLELMO FILIO ADÆ ET HÆREDIBUS SUIS CAPELLAM CONCESSIT CONSTRUERE, INFRA PAROCHIAM ECCLESIE S<sup>TI</sup> ANDRÆE SHIREBURN, IPSIUS WILLELMI ET UXORIS SUÆ ET FAMILIÆ USIBUS NECESSARIIS PROFUTURAM, ET EOSDEM AD DIVINUM OFFICIUM AUDIENDUM RECEPTURAM, CUI SERVIENDÆ IDEM ROBERTUS CAPELLANUM PROVIDEBIT, AD MENSAM WILLELMI ASSESSURUM, ET DE MANU ROBERTI MERCEDEM SUI SERVITII ACCEPTURUM; SALVO HONORE ET DIGNITATE MATRIS ECCLESIE SCHIREBURN IN DECIMIS OMNIUM RERUM DECIMENDARUM ET OBLATIONIBUS ET BENEFICIIS ET CONSUE- TUDINEBUS ANNUATIM PERSOLVENDIS, IN PROPRIA MANU ET USU RETINENDIS. IPSE VERO WILLELMUS CUM UXORE EANDEM ECCLESIAM, VENERATURUS ET IBIDEM COMMUNIONEM RECEPTURUS, NOTATIS DIEBUS ADIBIT; SCILICET IN DIE NATALI DOMINI, IN DIE PASCHÆ, IN DIE PURIFICATIONIS, IN DIE PENTECOSTÆ, IN DIE S<sup>TI</sup> ANDRÆE. CUJUS GRATIA CONCESSIONIS, PRÆDICTUS WILLELMUS, DOMINO ET PRÆDICTÆ ECCLESIE SCHIREBORN, QUADRAGINTA ACRAS TERRE POSSIDENDAS PERPETUO NUTU JOHANNIS DE PORT ET MATILDÆ UXORIS SUÆ ET FILIORUM ET HÆREDUM, IN ELEEMOSYNAM DEDIT ET CONCESSIT, VIDELICET XXII ACRAS, QUAS HERBERTUS DE BOSCO ET SELIDUS TENUE- RUNT, ET VII ACRAS IN FERNINGHAM, ET XI IN CAMPIS SCHIREBURN.”

The interpretation of this deed is as follows :—

“Robert the Dean of Sherborne hath permitted William FitzAdam and his heirs to build a Chapel within the parish of the Church of St. Andrew Sherborne, to serve for the use of himself and his wife and household, and to receive them for hearing the divine service; the said Robert shall provide the Chaplain, who shall eat at William's table, and receive a stipend for his services from Robert: Saving always the honour and dignity of the mother Church of Sherborne, and all tithes and oblations and benefits and yearly offerings to be paid and retained in his own hand as heretofore; And William FitzAdam with his wife shall attend to worship and receive the Communion at the parish Church



Church on specified days, that is to say, Christmas, Easter, the Purification, Whitsunday, and St. Andrew's Day. In consideration of which permission the aforesaid William, with the consent of John de Port and his wife Matilda and their heirs, hath granted in free alms for ever unto the Lord and to the Church of Sherborne forty acres, viz. twenty-two held by Herbert de Bosco and Selidus, and seven acres in Ferningham, and eleven in the Field-land of Sherborne."

This deed was confirmed in 1202 by Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester, the builder of the Early English work at the eastern end of the Cathedral, and by Herbert, who succeeded Robert as "Dean and Parson of the Church of St. Andrew Sherborne." The latter describes the Chantry Chapel as "built in the demesne (*in curia*) of William FitzAdam." The traditional site is near an old yew tree, about two hundred yards south of the present house.

The early use of the word "*Decanus*" or "Dean" in these deeds, as applied to Robert and Herbert, successively parsons of Sherborne, is remarkable, and has been variously explained. Some have thought it an early example of a surname, but it appears more probable that they were senior deans of the neighbouring Benedictine Priory of Monk Sherborne, just as the vicar of Battle, Sussex, bears the title of Dean derived from the Benedictine Priory founded by William the Conqueror.

Such Chapels or Chantries as that at the Vyne were not unfrequently sanctioned for private worship, in cases where regular attendance at the parish Church might properly be excused, either on account of the badness of the roads, or for other sufficient reasons. Thus, if a College at Oxford or Cambridge desired to have a private Chapel, instead of sending its scholars

to

to a Church outside its walls, it went through the same process of obtaining an episcopal licence as did John de Port and William FitzAdam for their Chapel at the Vyne. Such licences always saved the rights of the parish Church, and directed attendance there on the greater festivals, when oblations were commonly offered.

The Chantry Chapel of the Vyne was not consecrated; but a consecrated Altar stone, or portable Altar (*superaltare consecratum*), was given by the bishop to be laid upon the Altar whenever Mass was said.

Adam de Port, son of the founder of the Chantry Chapel, having married Mabel, an heiress of the St. John family, his son William assumed the name St. John in place of De Port early in the thirteenth century. His descendants the St. Johns of Basing continued to be Lords of the Manor of the Vyne, and that part of the parish of Sherborne in which the Vyne stands took its name of Sherborne St. John from them, and not from its Church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew.

Many of the St. Johns used the Vyne as a favourite hunting resort. Thus Robert de St. John is recorded to have enclosed a park for hunting in the parish of Sherborne in the reign of Edward I., and to have given<sup>1</sup> to the monks of Sherborne Priory "the right shoulder of every deer that should be killed in his park," a gift which his grandson, John Lord St. John, confirmed in 1309.

<sup>1</sup> Warner's  
Hampshire,  
tit. "The  
Vine."

Morgueson Wood, which adjoins the Vyne on the north-west, was also called<sup>2</sup> in ancient deeds John Lord St. John's Park of Morgarston. Horace Walpole therefore made a mistake,

<sup>2</sup> e.g. Deed of  
Jan. 26, 1325,  
preserved at  
the Vyne.

though

though not an unnatural one, when he derived the name of this wood from a village near Boulogne, burnt in the wars of Henry VIII. by William, first Lord Sandys of the Vyne. "The wood," he says,<sup>1</sup> "beyond the water at the back of the house still retains the name of Morgesson, a village in France, near which was fought the battle of Spours, which has been ridiculously called by historians the battle of Spurs, from the hasty flight, as they suppose, of the French, as if every battle in which one side retreated precipitately might not as justly have been called so."

<sup>1</sup> *MS. preserved at the Vyne.*

The Vyne passed in the fourteenth century to the distinguished family of Cowdray, whose memory is still preserved in Sussex, where they were living at the date of the Domesday Survey. The splendid mansion which bears their name in that county is deservedly famous both for its stately beauty and its tragic fate, having been ruined by fire at the same time as its owner, the eighth Lord Montague, perished by water in the falls of the Rhine near Schaffhausen. The Cowdrays established themselves at an early date in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Hampshire, in which last county they became the Lords of Herriard as well as of the Vyne.



The seal of Sir Fulke de Cowdray, on which the arms of the family (gules, 10 billets 4, 3, 2, and 1, or) are engraved, debrousing a two-headed eagle displayed, with the legend "Sigillum Fulconis de Cowdray," is represented in the accompanying drawing. This seal was attached to a Norman-French deed by which Sir Fulke de Cowdray leased the



the manor of the Vyne (at that time commonly called Sherborne Cowdray, after its owners) to Richard de Burton, Archdeacon of Winchester, in the twenty-fourth year of Edward III.

Sir Thomas de Cowdray re-endowed the Chantry Chapel by a Latin deed<sup>1</sup> of February 2, 1337, the effect of which was as follows :—

<sup>1</sup> *Winchester  
Diocesan  
Registry :  
Book of Adam  
Orleton.*

1. After reciting the licence in mortmain of King Edward III., and the consent of Robert de Jay, rector, and Ralph, vicar of Sherborne, he made the following grant : “ I give to my brother Richard de Cowdray, whilst he shall perform divine service daily in the Chapel of Sherborne Cowdray, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, and on behalf of my good estate while I shall live, and of my soul when I shall depart this life, and on behalf of Adam Orleton, Bishop of Winchester, and my father Sir Peter de Cowdray, and my mother the Lady Agnes, and my wife Juliana, and William Attehurst, and all the faithful departed, one plot of land in Sherborne Cowdray, and one rent coming to me from land held by Richard atte Ostre in the same village, and one rent of six marks issuing from lands in Herriard and Ellisfield, held by the Prioress of Hartley Wintney : To have and to hold the same to the said Richard and his successors the chaplains performing divine service in the said chapel, without any recourse to the mother church of Sherborne St. John.”

2. It was provided that the patronage should belong first to Sir Thomas and his heirs, as lords of the manor ; secondly, to the Prior of the Cathedral Church of St. Swithun at Winchester ; and thirdly, to the Bishop.

3. Sir Thomas de Cowdray undertook that he and his heirs would attend the parish Church on the greater festivals.

4. Sir Thomas de Cowdray gave to the "Chapel or Chantry" ("capellæ seu cantariæ") the following books and ornaments, viz., a missal, a gradual, a response-book ("troparium"), a lesson-book, an antiphonal, a Psalter, two phials, a pair of vestments, a napkin or towel, and two brass candlesticks.

5. It was provided that "the duty of replacing the ornaments and finding bread and wine and lights should devolve on the chaplain, but the repair of the nave and chancel and altar upon Sir Robert de Cowdray and his heirs."

Among the witnesses to this deed were Sir John de Roches of Steventon, Sir John de Tichborne, Sir John Peeche, Sir Hugh de Braybeof of Eastrop, Matthew de Haywood, Alexander de Cowfold, John Turgis, and Peter de Watford. It was confirmed by the Bishop at Farnham, February 7, 1337.

Thereupon Adam Orleton, Bishop of Winchester, admitted Richard de Cowdray to the chaplaincy, after the full chapter of the Deanery of Basingstoke had reported him to be "*vitæ laudabilis et honestæ conversationis*." At the same time, a dispute having arisen between Sir Thomas de Cowdray and Robert de Jay, the rector of Sherborne, as to the stipend which the latter was bound to pay to the chaplain, the bishop inspected the ancient deeds relating to the Chantry, and "having sought the divine guidance in the Chapel of his manor at Highclere," decided and awarded, June 12, 1337, that, notwithstanding any alteration in the value of land, the annual stipend payable to the chaplain by the rector should be one mark, and no more.

A

A well-carved head of Edward III. was disinterred at the beginning of this century, together with other stone work



belonging to the ancient Chantry Chapel, having probably been added as an ornament at the time of its restoration by Sir Thomas de Cowdray. It is a curious coincidence that a similar head of Edward III. still forms a bracket at the foot of the east window in the

interesting Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen at Kingston, which was also restored in that king's reign.

Soon after the date of Sir Thomas de Cowdray's benefactions, the Cowdray inheritance, including the Vyne, passed by marriage to Sir William Fyffhide, whose principal seat was at Fifield near Andover. This Sir William Fyffhide died in 1362, and an inquisition taken at Basingstoke on his death mentions his property at Sherborne as including "a manor house of no value beyond the outgoings, and the advowson of the Chapel."

During the minority of his son, a second William Fyffhide, a vacancy occurred in the chaplaincy, and King Edward III., as the infant's guardian, presented one Thomas Solle of Wychford, January 2, 1363.

On February 2, 1371, the second Sir William Fyffhide  
leased

<sup>1</sup> Deed  
preserved at  
the Vyne.

leased<sup>1</sup> the manor house of Sherborne Cowdray (i.e. the Vyne) to William Gregory of Basingstoke for certain considerations, including "the payment of one rose at the feast of St. John the Baptist;" reserving however "the Park, and the right of presentation to the Chapel;" while Gregory covenanted to keep in repair "the hall, and the adjoining chambers, and the grange, and the Chapel at the house."

In 1386 the manor passed to the Sandys family by marriage, and thenceforth resumed the name of the Vyne.

It will be told in the next chapter how William Waynflete (Headmaster of Winchester College, 1429; Fellow and first Headmaster of Eton, 1442; Provost of Eton, 1443; Bishop of Winchester, 1447; Chancellor, 1456; Founder of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1458) granted a licence in 1449 for marriages to be celebrated in the Chantry Chapel of the Vyne.

In the early years of the sixteenth century, the old Chantry Chapel was replaced by the present building (Plate III.), erected by William first Lord Sandys of the Vyne. It still remains almost unaltered and in perfect preservation.

Externally, like the rest of the house, it is built of diapered red brick, with coigns and windows of stone, and has stone battlements, sculptured with the coats of arms and devices of Henry VIII., Katharine of Arragon, Lord Sandys, Sir Reginald Bray, and the officers of the Order of the Garter. (Plate II. p. 11.) The eastern termination of the roof is not apsidal, like the building, but gabled, with a pierced barge board.

From within the house it is entered through an antechapel (described hereafter in Chap. VII.), by a richly carved oak door.

The







The internal dimensions are 35 feet long, 19 feet wide, 25 feet high.

The eastern end terminates in an apse pierced by three Perpendicular mullioned windows, filled with exceptionally perfect and beautiful glass of the fifteenth century, of which the subjects are as follows. The southernmost window contains, in the three upper lights, Our Lord bearing the Cross and meeting St. Veronica; and, in the lower lights, the Princess Margaret, daughter of Henry VII., kneeling, attended by her patroness Saint Margaret. The centre window contains, in the upper lights, the Crucifixion; and, in the lower, King Henry VII., kneeling, accompanied by his patron saint, Henry of Bavaria. The northernmost window contains, in the upper lights, the Resurrection; and, in the lower, Queen Elizabeth of York, kneeling, attended by her patroness Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, who carries clothes for the dwarf leper by her side. The sacred subjects are surmounted by the arms of Henry VII. and his Queen, and by the Tudor rose.

At this end, in the time of the first Lord Sandys,<sup>1</sup> was <sup>1 P. 25, *post.*</sup> tapestry, and a picture of Our Lord. The Altar had a canopy or baldacchino, and was covered, sometimes with an altar cloth richly embroidered with gold, "with my Lord's arms at both ends;" at other times with a pair of altar cloths of crimson velvet and cloth of gold. These were exchanged in Lent for one of white damask or linen with red roses. On the Altar stood "a cross of silver and gilt with the figures of St. Mary and St. John."

There was a font in the chapel, with a canopy of crimson satin and yellow damask.

The



The canopied oak seats (Plate IV.) are of peculiar beauty and afford an excellent example of varied and intricate carving. Two specimens of the rich work bordering the canopy on the outside, described by Horace Walpole in his account of the house as "capricious friezes," are here given. The canopy is



decorated on the inside with various carvings, including the Tudor Rose, the Portcullis, the Cross Ragulée (arms of Sandys), the St. George's Cross of the Order of the Garter, the Saltire

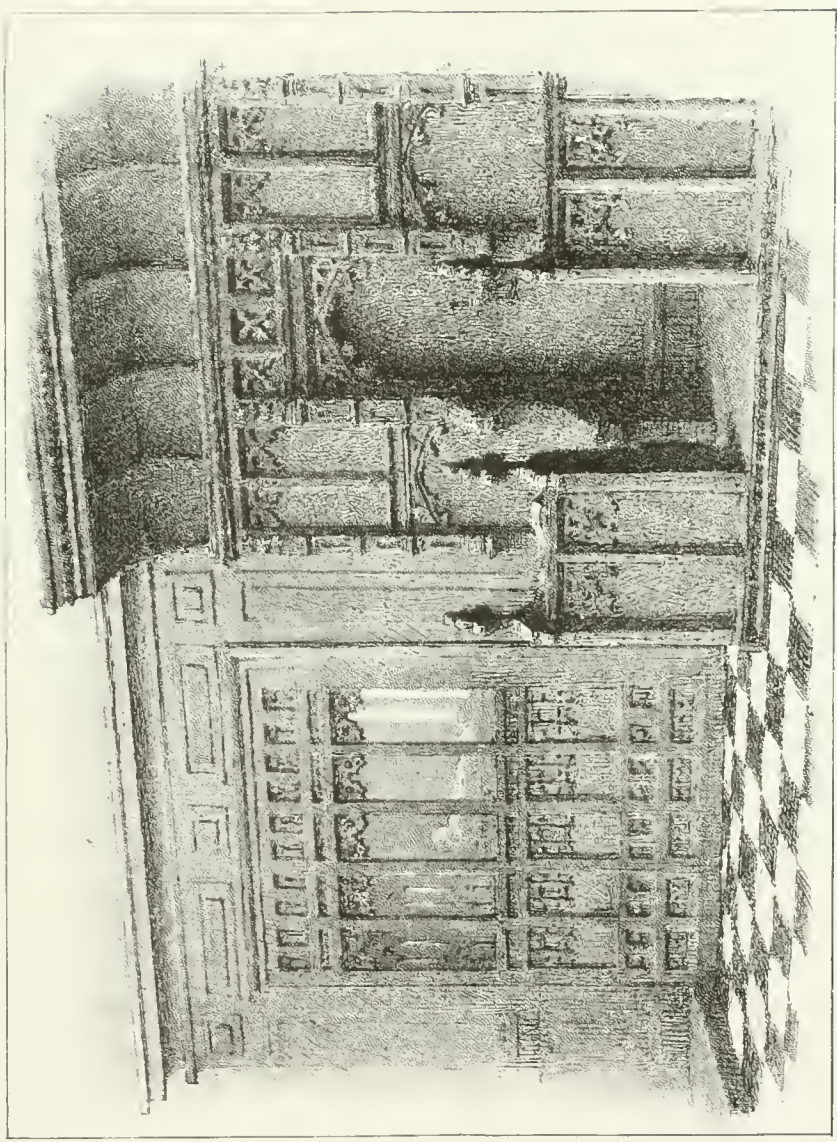


<sup>1</sup> See drawing, p. 66, *post*.

(the arms of Neville), and the badge of Lord Sandys, a rose surmounted by rays of the sun.<sup>1</sup> Two of the admirable poppy heads terminating the seats are represented in the accompanying drawings.

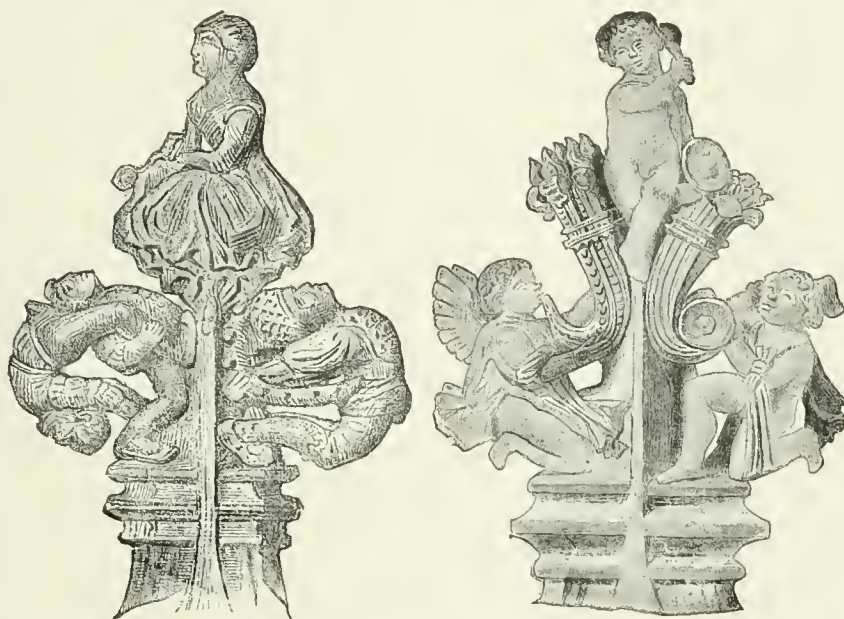
In the south wall is the door leading into the priest's chamber. The ornamental wrought-iron lock of the door, with the cypher W. S., for William Lord Sandys, is sketched at the head of Chapter III. East of this door is an open screen giving access

to





to the Tomb Chamber, containing the fine marble monument, by Banks (Plate VI., p. 67), of Chaloner Chute, recumbent, in his Speaker's robes. This monument will be found described in Chapter VII.



The floor was formerly of stone, in a black and white pattern; it is now of white marble, bordered with specimens of painted encaustic tiles, said by tradition to have been brought from Boulogne by Lord Sandys in the time of Henry VIII. They are probably from the manufactories of Urbino. Several of the scrolls are close imitations of Spanish or Moresque work. Some of the designs are given at the head of the "List of Illustrations" (p. vii., *ante*).

An



An iron alms box, of the time of Queen Elizabeth, bears the arms of the City of London, and the words "Für den Armen."

At the western end, above the antechapel, is a gallery with an open screen, once the oratory of Lord Sandys, in whose day it contained—

"v pieces of hangings of great flowers, with my Lordes armes in the Garter ;

"ii small pieces of Imagery for the windows ;

"ii other small pieces or tapettes hanging beside the altar."

From this gallery a spectator might have beheld the Mass celebrated with great splendour in the early days of the sixteenth century. He would have seen the Chapel lit up with an array of candles, some in massive silver standards, others in lesser silver candlesticks ; the priest, deacon, and subdeacon attired in vestments of satin and cloth of gold, adorned either with "angels and clouds" or with "lions and eagles," or with "my lord's arms in the garter" (for all these vestments were

<sup>1</sup> P. 25-27, *post.* among the Chapel furniture<sup>1</sup>) ; at other services with red copes, with orphreys garnished with pearl. There were two silver bells to be used at the consecration ; a set of organs to accompany the music ; Mass books on vellum, graduals, prick-song books, processionals, antiphonals, a silver Pyx for the Host ; six silver chalices and patens ; a silver Pax for the kiss of peace, engraved "with the crucifix, St. Mary and St. John ;" two silver censers and a "ship," partly gilt, for incense ; silver cruets for the water and wine ; silver basons for the alms ; a silver "stocke" with a "sprinkell" for the holy water ; and a silver box for the holy loaf or "singing bread," which the priest, after saying  
private

private Mass, broke and distributed to the people who did not communicate, as a symbol of brotherly love.

This Chapel has been selected for description and illustration by Dolman, in his "Ancient Domestic Architecture,"<sup>1</sup> as one of three typical examples of ancient domestic chapels in England ; the others being those of the two episcopal palaces of Lambeth and Wells.

The following is a list<sup>2</sup> of the ornaments, plate, and furniture used in the Chapel in the time of the first Lord Sandys :—

<sup>2</sup> *Inventory dated 1541.*  
*See p. 30, post.*

"IN THE CHAPEL.

ij pieces of Parke worke,\* with fountaines, lyned ;  
Another piece, underneath the windowes, of the same worke ;  
ij large tablettes of the picture of Our Lord ;  
A great large pair of Latten candlestickes, called standardes ;  
A pair of lesser candlestickes, of Latten ;  
A small pair of altar candlestickes, latten ;  
ij pieces of old hanginges, sore worne, hanging beside the altar ;  
An altar cloth for the upper part of the altar, richly embroidered with gold, with my lordes armes at both endes ;  
A pair of altar cloths, for above & beneath, of crimson velvet, & cloth of gold, paned,† with a lose valaunce of the same ;  
A canopy of coarse bawdekyn ;‡  
A fronte of bawdekyn, with a pageant of our Lady, embroidered ;  
An altar cloth & a fronte, white Damaske, with red roses, for Lent ;  
vij linnen altar cloths, with redd roses, for Lent ;

\* *Perhaps tapestry with garden or park scenery, as distinguished from "imagery," or tapestry containing figures. Gibbon, ch. lxi., describing a carpet of silk belonging to Chosroes, the Persian monarch, says, "A paradise or garden was depicted on the ground."*

† *Striped.*

‡ *Rich brocade from Baldeck, or Bagdad, whence the canopy was called a ballacchino.*

- A pair of vestmentes of clothe of gold, embroidered richly, with my lordes armes in the garter, all new ;
- A pair of vestmentes, crymson velvit, with an orpharus,\* & cloth of gold ;
- A suit of vestmentes for priest deacon and subdeacon, of green velvit, embroidered with angelles & cloudes, with the apparell & a cope of the same [valued at xiiijl. vjs. viijl.] ;
- A suit of vestmentes with priest deacon & subdeacon, of redd silke, embroidered with lyons & eagles of gold, of the old making, and a cope to the same [valued at vjl.] ;
- A suit with priest deacon & subdeacon, of crimson velvit, garnished with flowers & angelles of gold, with an orphrey of blacke & clothe of gold ;
- ij copes of red tissue, with an orphrey garnyshed with peerle ;
- A vestment of redd satin, figury, with an orphrey of blue clothe of gold ;
- A cope of redd Damaske, with an orphrey of blue velvit ;
- A pair of vestmentes of cloth tissue ;
- A canopy for the fonte, of crymson satin and yellow Damaske :
- A pair † of organs.

## IN THE VESTRY.

- x processionalles ;
- A fair masse booke in vellum, printed ;
- iiij grayles ; ‡
- viiij antiphonals, printed in paper ;
- iiij prick song bookes ;
- ij corporas § cases of black velvet perled, with JHUS embroidered ;
- ij other corporas cases, one of metal work, another of gold plain ;
- vj pair of altar curteyns of sarcenet, of dyvers colours.

\* Orphrey or band.

† Set.

‡ Graduals or service books.

§ The linen cloth spread over the consecrated bread.



## CHAPEL PLATE.

A crosse of sylver & gilt, with Mary & John, with a foot gilt : clxvj oz. ;  
 vj chalices gilte, with their pattens : cxiv oz. ;  
 A gilt Pyx of silver, chased : xx oz. ;  
 A gilt box for singing bread : \* iij oz. ;  
 A large Pax, with the Crucifix, and Mary & John : xxij oz. ;  
 A pair of altar basones, small, parcel gilt : xliij oz. ;  
 ij censers, parcel gilt, with a shipp & a spone, parcel gilt : lxxx oz. ;  
 A holy water stocke, with a sprinkell, parcel gilt : xx oz. ;  
 A bell of sylver, parcel gilt, with the clapper : x oz. ;  
 A box for singing bread,\* with a cover, parcel gilt : iij oz. ;  
 ij pair of cruettes : xviiij oz. ;  
 A pair of altar candlesticks : xliij oz. ;  
 Another pair of altar candlesticks, parcel gilt : xlvj oz. ;  
 Another pair of greate & large altar candlesticks, all white, with roses :  
 cxl oz. ;  
 A little bell of silver : ij oz.

## IN THE WARDROBE.

ij altar cloths of Bruges satin, red & yellow, paned ;  
 A canopy of the same stuff fringed & curtains to the same ;  
 A corporas case of needle work ;  
 A super altare." †

The Chapel did not escape the disendowment which befell all Chantries in the reign of Edward VI. It was described in the certificates of the revenues of Chantries, made in March and April 1548, with a view to their dissolution, as follows.

\* *Pain bénit*, or holy loaf, handed to the congregation after high Mass as a symbol of brotherly love. "Singing bread" seems to have been a term used to denote wafers in general.

† See p. 15.

"One

<sup>1</sup> *Certificates  
of Chantries,*  
51 (13).

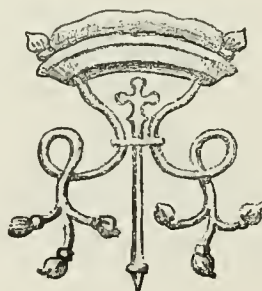
"One Chantry of the Vyne:<sup>1</sup> founded by Sir Thomas Cowdray, knt, to the intent to have a priest, to do, exercise, and use, divine service for ever in the s<sup>d</sup> chappel, to pray for the souls of the said Sir Thomas & Julyan his wife and all Christian souls; and the said priest to have for his Salary cvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. the said Chantry is situate one mile from the parish church. Ornaments plate jewels goods & chattels, merely appertaning to the said Chantry, not priced, but as appeareth by the Indenture."

And again:—

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 52 (9).

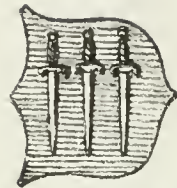
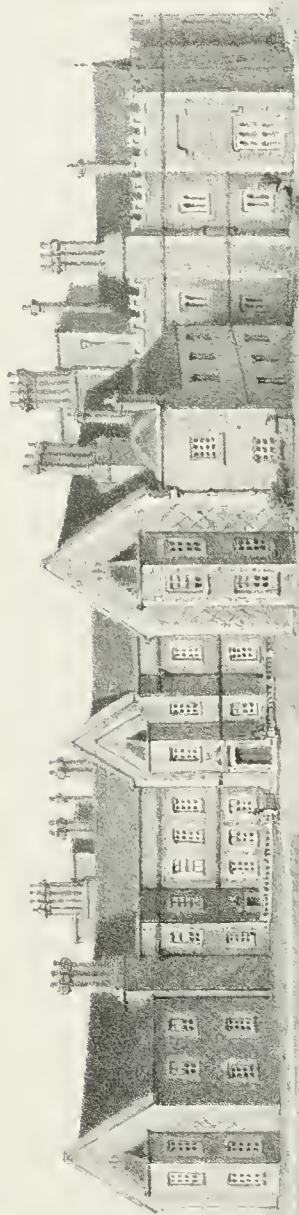
"The Chantry in the Vine,<sup>2</sup> founded to have continuance for ever, of whose foundation they know not, and that there is belonging to the same Chantry a house & garden & orchard, valued at iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>; item in lands & tenements, to the yearly value of v<sup>l</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>; ornaments & goods there by inventory indented to the incumbent delivered by the commissioners valued at ij<sup>s</sup>."

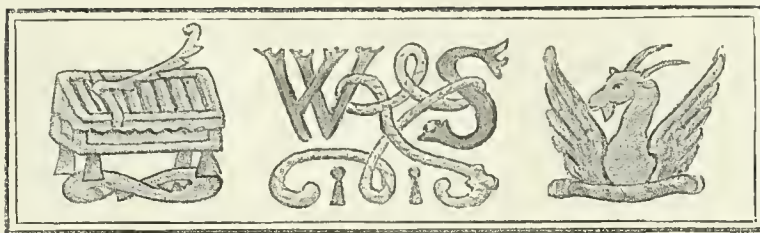
The Chapel, though disendowed by the sale of its lands, and deprived of its independent emoluments, was preserved undecorated, and still retains its original beauty, affording a memorial of the munificent piety of successive owners of the Vyne.



CHAP.







### CHAP. III      *The Lord's Sandys.*

---

**F**OR nearly three hundred years, from the reign of Richard II. until the days of the Commonwealth, the Vyne belonged to the family of Sandys, the greatest of whom, the first Lord Sandys, was the builder of the present house (Plate V.) about 1509. He and his successors were associated with many of the principal persons and events of the Tudor period, and his "poor house," as he calls it in many of his letters, abounds in historic memories.

Here King Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn were guests at a momentous crisis of the Reformation; here Queen Elizabeth, with Lord Burleigh at her side, penned one of her earliest and most important despatches with reference to the keeping of Mary Queen of Scots; and here the Duke de Biron, with a retinue of four hundred persons, was for several days royally entertained.

The original seat of the Hampshire family of Sandys was at Cholderton near Andover, where in Leland's time<sup>1</sup> yet remained

<sup>1</sup> *Leland, Itin.*  
iv. pt. i. fol.  
10, 11.

remained "a fair manor place builded for the most part of flint." They bore different arms from the family of the same name of Latymers in Buckinghamshire, and Ombersley in Worcester-shire, to which the archbishop, and many persons distinguished in literature and politics, belonged.

It was Sir John Sandys, a knight of the shire for the county of Hants, and governor of Winchester Castle, who acquired the Vyne in 1386, by his marriage with Joanna, heiress of the Fyffhides; and his son Sir Walter, not foreseeing that it was about to become the principal residence of his family, "gave it out" (says Leland<sup>1</sup>) to his daughter Joanna, upon her marriage to William Brocas, about 1420.

<sup>1</sup> *ubi sup.*

<sup>2</sup> *History of the Brocas Family, by Professor Bui rones, 1886.*

Few families were at that time more distinguished than that of Brocas. Sir John Brocas had migrated in the fourteenth century to England from Aquitaine, then part of the English king's dominions;<sup>2</sup> and Sir Bernard Brocas, the friend and companion-in-arms of Edward the Black Prince, by whose side he fought at Poitiers, had become the lord of Beaurepaire, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Vyne, in the year of that battle, 1356. He died in 1395, and was honoured with a splendid monument in Westminster Abbey, which tells how, "being sent against the Moors, he overcame the King of Morocco in battle, and was allowed to bear for his crest a Moor's head crowned with an Eastern crown." Readers of the "Spectator"<sup>3</sup> may remember that Sir Roger de Coverley, visiting Westminster Abbey, "paid particular attention to the account of the lord who had cut off the King of Morocco's head."

<sup>3</sup> *No. 329.*

His son, a second Sir Bernard, was faithful to Richard II.  
in

in his day of adversity, and was put to death February 4, 1400, by Henry IV. Shakespeare<sup>1</sup> speaks of his execution, with Sir Benedict Shelley, and the chroniclers tell of his last speech at Tyburn before he was beheaded: "Blessed be God that I was born, for I shall die this night in the service of the noble King Richard."

<sup>1</sup> *Richard II.*  
act v. sc. 6.

It was his son, William Brocas, who married Joanna Sandys as his second wife, and received the Vyne as her dowry. He served Henry V. and Henry VI. as sheriff of Hampshire in 1416, 1429, and 1436, sat for the same county in four Parliaments at least of the former king, and obtained such favour with the new dynasty that he recovered most of the property which his father had forfeited by his attainder; the estate of Denton in Wharfedale, and the well-known Brocas meadow on the banks of the Thames at Eton, being included among his possessions. He also held the distinguished position of Master of the Royal Buckhounds, an office which, being at that time hereditary, had been acquired<sup>2</sup> by his grandfather Sir Bernard upon his marriage with Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Roches, and widow of Sir. John de Borhunte, in 1363. Rockingham Castle in Northamptonshire, a favourite resort of the Plantagenet kings, was then the centre of this royal hunt; and one of the meets of the Woodland Pytchley hounds at the present day is the "Bocase stone," possibly a corruption of "Brocas stone,"<sup>3</sup> in Rockingham Forest.

<sup>2</sup> *History of  
the Brocas  
Family*, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 250.

William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester, granted William Brocas a licence,<sup>4</sup> January 20, 1449, to have marriages "between his children and other persons" solemnised in "the Chapel or

<sup>4</sup> *Winchester  
Diocesan  
Registry*.

Oratory



Oratory within his manor of the Vine, after banns duly proclaimed in the proper places."

An incidental notice of medieval rustic life is contained in a record of the Court Leet of Basingstoke Hundred, July 28, 1408, which tells how Roger atte Lane complained that "John Benfelde trod down his hay in le Vyne to the damage of three shillings and four pence, and the Court awarded him three pence for the trespass."

William Brocas died April 29, 1456, having by his will directed that he should be buried "in the Chapel of the Holy Apostle in the Church at Sherborne." There is reason to believe<sup>1</sup> that the Brocas Chantry attached to the Church of St. Andrew, Sherborne St. John, which contains several fine monumental brasses, was completed in his lifetime, with money left for the purpose by his grandfather Sir Bernard.

<sup>1</sup> *History of the Brocas Family*, pp. 129, 390.

Joanna, the widow of William Brocas, occupied the Vyne for the remainder of her life, and was succeeded by her son Bernard, the second son of his father, who saw his grandfather's fate avenged by the overthrow of the Lancastrian dynasty, and by the triumph of the White Rose. The memory of Bernard Brocas of the Vyne is preserved by an elaborate monumental brass, placed by his wife Philippa in the Brocas chantry at Sherborne St. John, where he was buried. He is represented in armour, kneeling before a large cross, under which is a skeleton and shroud, and the rhyming verse:—

ME PIE CHRISTE JESU  
SERVES ATRÆ NECIS ESU.

He bears a shield with the Brocas and Roches arms quartering those

those of Sandys, and holds a helmet and mantling with the Moor's head crest. The Latin inscription round the cross is curious and enigmatical :—

“PONDERE MARMOREO TENEBROSO SUBTUS IN ANTRO  
BERNARDUS BROCAS JACET, ARMIGER ARMA RELINQUENS :  
HUMANUS MULTUM FUERAT ; REDDUNT DECORATUM  
MORES DAPSILITAS ILLUM AMPECTENDAQUE HONESTAS.  
OCCUBUIT MAI DENA TERNAQŨE LUCE  
ANNO SED DOMINI CENTENIS MULTIPLICATIS  
BIS SEPTENARIO SEPTENARIUS DUODENO,  
QUATUOR HIS ADDO NUMERUM TIBI PERFICIENDO.”

This epitaph may be translated as follows :—

“Here in the darkness of the vaulted gloom,  
Beneath the weight of ponderous marble tomb,  
Lies Bernard Brocas, an esquire, bereft  
Of arms that once he bore, but now has left.  
His heart was kind, all honoured with delight  
His manners liberal, pleasing, and upright.  
On the thirteenth of May it was he died  
In the year of our Lord one hundred multiplied  
By seven twice told ; thereto I must intact  
Add seven times twelve and four to make the date exact.”

The date of his death, thus curiously expressed, was May 13, 1488. The words “arma relinquens” possibly allude to the wars of the Roses, which lasted through his life.

Upon his death the Vyne was “recovered”<sup>1</sup> by Sir William Sandys, grandson of Sir Walter, who had “given it out” in

<sup>1</sup> *Leland, Itin.*  
iv. pt. i. fol.  
10, 11.

marriage. Sir William has the distinction of being mentioned by Shakespeare,<sup>1</sup> who says that he was

<sup>1</sup> *Henry VIII.*  
act i. sc. 4.

“exceeding mad in love,  
But he would bite none.”

He married Edith, daughter of Sir John Cheney of Sherland in the Isle of Sheppey, and was Sheriff of Hampshire in 1497, in which year he died, having charged his debts by will “on his personal property at Andover and the Vyne.”

<sup>2</sup> *Leland, Itin.*  
iv. pt. i.  
fol. 10, 11.

Thereupon his son William, who became the first Lord Sandys, the friend of Kings Henry VII. and VIII., and Lord Chamberlain in the court of the latter, succeeded him, and finding the Vyne<sup>2</sup> “no very great or sumptuous manor place, only contained within the moat” (perhaps that of which part still remains, south of the present house), he “so translated and augmented it, and beside builded a fair Base Court, that it became one of the principal houses in goodly building in all Hamptonsshire.”

In this undertaking he was greatly aided by his marriage with Margery Bray, niece and heiress of Sir Reginald Bray, Knight of the Garter, who, by his skill in the arts of diplomacy and architecture, earned wealth and distinction, and held many great civil employments. It was Sir Reginald Bray who designed the chapel of Henry VII. at Westminster, and was the architect of a great part of St. George’s Chapel, Windsor. In the middle of the south aisle of the latter he was allowed to build the Chapel, called by his name, in which he was buried; and his device, a Bray or Hempbreaker (shown in the design at the

the head of this chapter), appears in many parts of that building. As he lived till 1503, it is possible that the Vyne Chapel may owe something to his genius as an architect.

The first visit of Henry VIII. to the Vyne was in July 1510. It appears from the book of his payments for that month<sup>1</sup> that he went from Windsor (where he paid 66s. 8d. to "the school-master and children at Eton") to his hunting lodge at Easthamstead, thence to the Vyne, and thence to Reading. He paid 2s. for "a messenger from Master Sandys' place to Mr. Mewtas," and 4s. 10d. for "carriage of guard jackets from Windsor to Esthamstede, thence to the Vine, and thence to Reading."

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. ii. p. 1447.

In 1512 the King was persuaded to send an expedition to Fontarabia in Spain, partly to help his father-in-law Ferdinand of Arragon, then in league with the Pope against France, partly in hopes of recovering for England the lost province of Guienne. In this expedition Sir William Sandys served as "keeper of the ordnance at Fontarabia," and "in consideration of his services in the wars in Spain, Guienne, Flanders, and Picardy,"<sup>2</sup> he was appointed Treasurer of Calais, July 28, 1517, with an allowance of 56*l.* per annum out of the issues of that town.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 1120.

In the next year, November 13, 1518, we find "Master Sandys" complained of at a view of frankpledge in the Court Leet of Basingstoke, "that he keeps many more sheep upon the common of the town than he should do, and moreover that his servants disorder their cattle, whereby many poor men of the town take great damage."

He was made a Knight of the Garter, May 16, 1518, and

two

two years later was one of the Commissioners appointed to arrange the famous interview of Henry with Francis I. at Guisnes, known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold, June 4, 1520; where, as Shakespeare says,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Henry VIII.*  
act i. sc. 1.

"Each following day  
Became the next day's master, till the last  
Made former wonders its. To-day the French,  
All clinquant, all in gold, like heathen gods,  
Shone down the English; and to-morrow, they  
Made Britain India; every man that stood  
Showed like a mine."

Shakespeare tells us how Sir William Sandys (whom he calls Lord Sandys by anticipation) was amongst those to whom all this display was distasteful, and who lamented that the "spells of France should juggle even into such strange mysteries." "New customs," he says,<sup>2</sup> addressing Charles Earl of Worcester, his predecessor in the office of Lord Chamberlain,

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* sc. 3.

"Though they be never so ridiculous,  
Nay, let 'em be unmanly, yet are followed."

He goes on to express a hope that the English ladies will now attend to their own fellow-countrymen once more, instead of being engrossed by the foreigners.

"An honest country lord, as I am, beaten  
A long time out of play, may bring his plain-song  
And have an hour of hearing."

He was ready, however, to take part in the King's amusements upon English soil; and Shakespeare represents that, shortly after this conversation, he attended Cardinal Wolsey's  
great

great supper at York Place, now Whitehall, and was there introduced to Anne Boleyn,<sup>1</sup> whom in later years he received as his royal guest at the Vyne ; and seating himself by her, said :—

<sup>1</sup> *Henry VIII.*  
act i. sc. 4.

“ If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me ;  
I had it from my father.”

Then there follows one of those entertainments in which Henry, like his daughter Queen Elizabeth, appears to have taken so much delight. A drum and trumpets are heard, and the King himself and twelve others enter, habited like shepherds, with sixteen torchbearers, and, ushered by the Lord Chamberlain,

“ Crave leave to view these ladies, and entreat  
An hour of revels with 'em.”

And so the masquerade began and continued until morning. And in all this Sir William Sandys joined with hearty good will.

He was, however, much more than a mere companion of the King's pleasures, and showed such diligence and skill in affairs of statesmanship, that on July 24, 1521,<sup>2</sup> Richard Pace, Secretary of State, wrote to Cardinal Wolsey as follows :—

<sup>2</sup> *State  
Papers  
(Henry VIII.).*  
vol. i. p. 20.

“ The King signifieth unto your Grace that, whereas old men do now decay greatly within this realm, his mind is to acquaint other young men with his great affairs, and therefore he desireth your Grace to make Sir William Sandys and Sir Thomas More privy to all such matters as your Grace shall treat at Calais.”

The result of Wolsey's embassy to Calais, here referred to, was that King Henry again went to war with France, and entered into alliance with the Emperor Charles V., who thereupon

thereupon visited England in May 1522, and on June 22 was entertained at Winchester, where King Arthur's round table in the great hall of the Castle was painted, as it now appears, in his honour. Sir William Sandys was unable to take any part in these festivities, for, as became a good soldier, he was already at his post at Calais, defending the marches against the French.

The King hoped that Sandys would by his influence raise two hundred men for this service ; but he wrote, May 8, 1522, that,<sup>1</sup> "as he was on the French side of the water, he could not raise more than ten men, unless aided by my Lord of Winchester, who had fifty able men in readiness ; and, as the Abbot of Hyde and the Prior of St. Swithun's had forty, and the town of Winchester twenty men, it would further the King's purpose if they might be parcel of the two hundred required."

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*  
vol. iii. p. 951.

He was created Baron Sandys of the Vyne, April 27, 1523, while serving under the famous Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, against the French ; and his new dignity appears to have stimulated him to greater exertions, for Holinshead<sup>2</sup> tells us that in a skirmish with three hundred French horse near Calais, July 3, 1523, he and Sir Edward Guilford were "whips unto the Frenchmen," and were "two that did them most displeasure : " and in the same month he and other captains "entered into the confines of their enemies before Boulogne, where they had a great skirmish and put their enemies to the worse ; and, after marching into the country, took divers churches and other places which the Frenchmen had fortified ; and so, after they had been within the enemy's country almost two nights and

two

<sup>2</sup> *Holinshead*,  
vol. iii. pp.  
679, 681, 687,  
689.



two days, they came back to Calais, having not lost past a dozen of their men."

Again, October 20, a breach having been made in the walls of Bray, near Amiens, "by the good comfort of the Lord Sandys and other captains" the English "got the ditches and entered upon the walls;" and in the same month "Lord Sandys and Sir Maurice Berkeley and others, with 3,000 men, burned Marqueson with many villages." A print of this burning, with the English tents in a hurricane, taken from a picture at Cowdray, is at the Vyne.

The troops, however, were ill supplied for war, and found Rhenish wine a poor substitute for the national beverage. Lord Sandys wrote August 16, 1522,<sup>1</sup> to ask for "1000, or at least 700, tuns of beer." The consequence of the general want of food was that the Duke of Suffolk, though he led his army within two miles of Paris, was obliged to retreat precipitately to Calais to save his men from dying of hunger. He sent Lord Sandys home to report the evil plight of the army, and before his envoy could return the troops were disbanded.

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. iii. p. 1029.

This was that Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who married the King's sister, Mary, after the death of her first husband, Louis XII. of France. There is a portrait of him at the Vyne by Holbein, with the following inscription on the panel:—

*"Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk Lord Grand Maister to K. Henry VIII. The fayrest man at arms in his tyme, lieutenant to the Kyng in his greatest warres, voyd of despyte, moste fortunate to the end, never in displeasure with his Kyng."*

Amongst the intimate friends of Lord Sandys at this time  
was

was Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester (1501-1528), in conjunction with whom he obtained from the King a charter dated November 16, 1524, for the establishment of the Fraternity of the Holy Ghost in Basingstoke, his country town. This, which had previously been a voluntary association for the maintenance of a chaplain to say masses in the Chapel of the Holy Ghost for the health of the inhabitants of Basingstoke, was reconstituted and endowed by Lord Sandys and Bishop Fox, with the additional object of providing education and instruction for young men and boys of the town.

Besides re-establishing the Fraternity, Lord Sandys made an important addition to the Chapel of the Holy Ghost. The graceful tower and picturesque ruins which cannot fail to arrest the attention of travellers passing by railway through Basingstoke, belong to a Chapel which he added to the original fabric, as a burial-place for himself and his family. It well deserves a close inspection. The angles of the tower display canopied niches and brackets for images, on which were carved, and are still visible, the Sandys arms and badges. Camden speaks of this Chapel as "very beautiful," and mentions rich paintings with which the roof was adorned, "representing the history of the prophets, apostles, and disciples of Christ." Its windows were placed by Peter Heylyn<sup>1</sup> in the same category with those of the Cathedral Church of Canterbury, and the parish Church of Fairford, Gloucestershire. They suffered in the civil wars, and portions of the glass, after many vicissitudes, have found resting-places in the Churches of St. Michael, Basingstoke, and All Saints, Woolbeding, and in the Antechapel at the Vyne.

<sup>1</sup> *Cyprrianus Anglicanus*,  
Introduction,  
p. 10.

On

On June 2, 1525, Lord Sandys received as his guest at the Vyne the famous Henry Courtenay, Earl of Devon, who<sup>1</sup> "broke a lance against the French monarch at the Camp of Cloth of Gold," was created Marquis of Exeter by his cousin Henry VIII., and afterwards executed by him. An offering which he made "at the Holy Ghost" (*i.e.* at Basingstoke), when he was at the Vyne, is mentioned in his household accounts.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gibbon, *Roman Empire*, ch. lxi.

<sup>2</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. iv. pp. 794, 795.

In 1526, on the death of Charles Somerset, first Earl of Worcester, Lord Sandys was made Lord Chamberlain. In the same year he resigned the office of Treasurer of Calais, and was appointed Captain of Guisnes. The original deed, dated October 25, 1526, whereby Sir Robert Wingfield, his successor, "late lieutenant of the castel of Caleys," acknowledged the receipt from him of the keys of Calais, "as well of the foure principall gates as of the posterns," is preserved at the Vyne.

When Wolsey went on his embassy to Francis I. in 1527, to concert measures for the Pope's release after the sack of Rome, Lord Sandys accompanied him. He had little acquaintance with the French except as a combatant, and thought perhaps that too much intercourse with them would change the English into

"travelled gallants,  
That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and tailors."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Shakespeare, *Henry VIII.* act i. sc. 3.

It was not without reason that the Cardinal instructed the members of his suite to be ready to talk to any Frenchman who might address them, and, "speaking merrily to one of the gentlemen,"<sup>4</sup> being a Welshman, 'Price,' quoth he, 'speak thou Welsh to him; I am well assured that thy Welsh shall be more

<sup>4</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* Introduction. vol. iv. p. cclxiii.

G

diffuse

diffuse (*i.e.* difficult) to him than his French shall be to thee.' And so he urged them in all their behaviour to study gentleness and humanity."

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. iv. p. 1796.

In 1528, the clothiers about Westbury, Wilts, being thrown out of work, assembled with the intention of repairing to the King, who wrote to Lord Sandys for information as to their designs. He replied<sup>1</sup> in a letter dated "The Vyne, March 9, 1528," that he "had not heard of it till he received the King's letter; for Westbury, he is told, is near Bristol, sixty miles from here," and added that he would go with a few persons, as if hunting, towards Sir John Seymour and Sir William Essex, and, "if there is any such movement, he will do his best to pacify it; if not, he will follow the King's instructions, and, though he has sent all his harness to Guisnes, he will not spare his own body among them."

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 1951.

In a letter<sup>2</sup> to Wolsey, July 1, 1528, he asked for some offices that Sir William Compton, lately deceased, had held in connexion with certain religious houses. He excused himself from visiting the King or Wolsey, as he had had "the Sweat in his house;" and he defended his importunity with an "old saying, 'Where a man best loveth there he dare be boldest.'"

At the date of this letter the Sweating Sickness, which first came to England with the foreign troops of Henry VII. in 1485, was invading England for the fourth time, with such violence, that the King left London, and shut himself up in his hunting-lodge at Tittenhanger Park, near St. Albans, within a circle of bonfires.

In

In 1530, Lord Sandys was appointed by Wolsey keeper of Farnham Castle, with an annuity of a hundred marks.

In August 1531, the King again visited the Vyne, and his household accounts for that month contain the following entries<sup>1</sup>:—

“To one who brought a screen to the Vyne from Pexhalles house, 40s. ;

“To the keeper of Baroper (Beaurepaire) Park, 6s. 8d. ;

“To the keeper of Mr. Pawlets and Lord Sandys parks, 13s. 4d. ;

“To the servant of the Lord Chamberlain (Lord Sandys) for bringing a stag to the Vine, which the King had stricken before in Wolmer forest, 10s.”

Lord Sandys made use of his connexion with France for the benefit of his cellar and larder at the Vyne, as we may gather from his correspondence with Lord Lisle, the deputy at Calais, who wrote<sup>2</sup> to him September 13, 1533, to say that he had sent him two hogsheads of wine, “one of claret, Gaskoyn, the other white, better than Gaskoyn ;” adding, “if you wish to have herring and wine this winter, let me know ;” and in 1534 Lord Sandys asked<sup>3</sup> Lord Lisle to send him some plovers. “I beg,” he says, “that I may continue to participate in your Lordships Pewettes. I also desire license to ship such French wines as my friend Mr. Vice-Treasurer has bought for me at Calais ;” shortly after which he wrote to thank Lord Lisle for giving command to his servant for the “Pewettes,” and again in another letter he asked Cromwell for a licence to disembark “twenty tuns of wine for the provision of his house.”

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. v. p. 755.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 497.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* vol. vii. pp. 223, 310, 550.

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. vi. p. 250.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 683.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* vol. viii. pp. 14, 15, 74.

In May 1533, Lord Sandys took his part as Lord Chamberlain in the public reception of Queen Anne Boleyn, after her secret marriage, when she made her splendid entry by water into London, with "streamers<sup>1</sup> of cognizances and devices ventylyng with the wynd, trumpets blowing and shallmes and mistrelles playing." The divorce, however, of Queen Katharine which shortly followed, and the irreconcilable schism which thence arose between England and the Holy See, caused him much distress, and it was little consolation to him that Pope Clement VII. granted him a special indulgence,<sup>2</sup> August 20, 1533 (together with the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Winchester, and the Marquis of Exeter), allowing him "to have mass celebrated three times during his life, though his country should be under an apostolic interdict." He retired from Court in 1534, on the plea of sickness, and was even ready to welcome an invasion of England by the Emperor Charles V., as preferable to the tyranny of his own king in matters ecclesiastical.

The following remarkable letter upon this subject, written in cypher, and dated January 14, 1534, from Chapuys, the Ambassador of Charles V. in London, to his Imperial master, has been recently found in the Vienna Archives<sup>3</sup>:—

"Lord Sandys, the King's Chamberlain, and one of the best men of war in the kingdom, sent to tell me he was very sorry the times were such that he could not invite me to his house" (*i.e.* the Vyne); "but your Majesty might be sure you had the hearts of all this kingdom, and that, if you knew the great disorder that exists here, and the little hope of making good resistance, now that the people are so alienated from the King, you



you would not delay to apply a remedy ; at the least disturbance your Majesty could make, this kingdom would be found in inestimable confusion. The said Lord Sandys is at his house pretending to be ill, he is so disgusted with the Court, and has sent this message to me by his physician, whom I know." Chapuys wrote again to the Emperor, February 9, that "the King has sent for le Seigneur Xaynel" (*i.e.* Sandys), "but he says he is ill."

The Emperor was hindered from taking advantage of these proposals, by his expedition against the corsair Barbarossa ; a happy circumstance, no doubt, for England, as the cruelty with which the Catholics on the Continent persecuted the Protestants far exceeded the severest measures of the English King against those who resisted his authority.

Whilst thus in retirement from public affairs, Lord Sandys did not fail to watch over the King's deer, and hearing that there had been poaching by night in the Queen's Park (now Great Park Farm) at Mortimer, near the Vyne, in which parish he himself had a breeding establishment, he wrote to Cromwell,<sup>1</sup> January 22, 1535 : "I willed my brother this day to go and see the manner thereof ; on coming thither he found hounds and hunters, among whom were young Trapnell, Mr. Inglefield's son-in-law, and six of his servants, who immediately attacked him and hurt him sore. I write to you for redress, for if it were not more for dread of the King than of God, I would have been revenged. Young Trapnell has killed twenty of the King's deer on the borders of Windsor Forest. Two years ago he slew a great hart, and carried him away in a cart ;

unless

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. viii. p. 28.

unless some remedy be devised, the King's deer cannot be defended."

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. viii. p. 154.

Charges having been brought against Lord Sandys that he was not keeping the castle of Guisnes as he ought, and that the woods were wasted, he replied,<sup>1</sup> March 14, 1535, that he would go there before Easter, if the King desired it: "It is furnished with soldiers," he adds, "according to my duty; I know of no waste of the wood except such as has been taken for burning of brick, necessary for repairs at Calais and Guisnes."

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 363.

Once more, on June 25, 1535, Lord Sandys wrote to Cromwell from the Forest of Wolmer, near Alton, Hants, to excuse his absence from Court:<sup>2</sup> "I and my poor house have been punished by the hand of God; three of my tallest men have died, and most of my other servants have been sick: I am constrained to repose in a poor lodge in the Forest of Wolmer, and my wife in another, so that I cannot wait upon the King, to whom I beg you will excuse me."

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 379.

Whilst he was in this retreat, the King granted<sup>3</sup> him the materials of the neighbouring manor house of Wardelham (now Worldham), which had fallen to the Crown on the attainder of Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, who having been left in the Tower by Henry VII., was executed by Henry VIII. 1513.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* vol. ix. p. 224.

On October 13, 1535, the King, accompanied by Queen Anne Boleyn, went to the Vyne on a visit to Lord Sandys, who wrote a few days later to Cromwell as follows<sup>4</sup>:—

"Pleaseth it you to be advertised that the Kings highness and the Queens grace came hither to my poor house on Friday last

last past, the 13th day of this month, and here continued until Tuesday then next ensuing ; where my very especial trust and hearty desire was also to have seen you ; and right so I suppose verily it might have pleased you, according to your promise, to have taken the pains, but that I remember your great business, and especially at this time : assuring you that you should have been and at all seasons shall be as heartily welcome unto me as to any friend you have, and a great comfort it should have been to me and my poor wife to have seen you."

He then asks Cromwell to help his friend John Awdelett, of Abingdon, in a dispute with the Abbot, and ends thus : " I beseech the Holy Ghost to preserve you with as long continuance in as good health as I would have myself.

" At the Vyne the xxij<sup>nd</sup> day of October anno regni regis Henrici VIII. xxvij<sup>m</sup>.

" Yours assured to his power,

" WYLLM SANDYS."

The " great business " of Cromwell, referred to in this letter, included that visitation of the monasteries which, as Vicar-General (a new office created for the purpose), he carried out with extreme severity. Among those who were in danger of deprivation was the Prior of Worcester, a friend of Margery Lady Sandys, who took up his cause with energy, and wrote<sup>1</sup> to Cromwell, immediately after the departure of her royal guests, the following letter, dated October 21, 1535 :—

" I write to you of the Prior of Worcester, Dan Wm. More, who remains in Gloucester at the Kings pleasure and yours.

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* vol. ix. p. 220.

I beg that the matter may be examined into, for he is a true monk to God and the King: he was elected to his room by the whole convent, and the gift of the Bishop of Winchester, without giving a penny for his promotion." And, knowing the character of those with whom she was pleading, she adds: "He" (the Prior) "will be glad to give you in ready money as much as any other man will give, and therefore my trust is you will be good to him."

Cromwell was also occupied with that severe persecution of those who refused to acknowledge the King's supremacy, which has well been called the English Reign of Terror, and culminated in the execution of the brethren of the Charterhouse, Bishop Fisher, and Sir Thomas More. Hence arose a romantic incident; for among those who were in the greatest danger was Marie, niece of Cardinal Pole, grand-daughter of Margaret Countess of Salisbury, and one of the nearest relations of King Edward IV.; and she found shelter in Hampshire, probably by the intervention of Lord Sandys, and married William Cufaude, whose moated grange adjoined the manor of the Vyne. An illuminated pedigree of the Cufaude family commemorates this alliance with the last of the Plantagenets. It displays the crown of Edward IV., the insignia of many nobles of royal blood, and the scarlet hat of Cardinal Pole. This pedigree is at the Vyne,<sup>1</sup> as is also a picture of Marie Pole's fair descendant Winifred the Nun of Cufaude.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 163.  
*post.*

<sup>2</sup> *Letters and  
Papers of  
Henry VIII.*  
vol. ix. p. 293.

Once more, at Christmas, 1535,<sup>2</sup> Lord Sandys declined to attend the Court, on the plea of ill-health, and yet when the great rebellion of the North endangered the realm in 1536, he took

took his place, as of old, by the side of the King in Council, who, writing an "Answer to the demands of the Rebels in Yorkshire," mentions<sup>1</sup> "the Lord Sandys our chamberlain," among the trusty advisers in whom they might well put confidence. And he is again mentioned as present at a Privy Council on August 10, 1540, a few weeks before his death.

<sup>1</sup> *State Papers (Henry VIII.)*, vol. i, pp. 506, 508, 646.

Lord Sandys "departed to God's mercy,"<sup>2</sup> much lamented by all those who were associated with him, at Calais, December 4, 1540, after a long life spent in the service of his country. A valiant soldier abroad, and an "honest country lord" at home, he was averse to change, and a devoted supporter of the ancient faith. And if we hesitate to approve the design imputed to him of sacrificing his allegiance to his religion, we must remember that he did not carry into effect what he is said to have contemplated, and lived and died the loyal servant of a tyrannical and exacting master.

<sup>2</sup> *Letter from Lord Maltravers to the King: State Papers (Henry VIII.)*, vol. viii, p. 495.

In accordance with his will, of which he made his son Thomas and his daughter-in-law Elizabeth executor and executrix, Lord Sandys was buried in the Holy Ghost Chapel at Basingstoke, beneath a richly carved tomb, of which some portions still remain, displaying his arms and badge.<sup>3</sup> A contract dated March 1, 1536, has recently been discovered<sup>4</sup> at Antwerp, by which "Arnoult Hermassone, natif d'Amsterdamme en Hollande, à present demcurant à Aire en Artois," agreed with Lord Sandys that he would make this tomb "de pierre d'Antoing," and that it should bear "une croix de cuivre la quelle croix aura ces noms, Willem Sans et Margere Sans."

<sup>3</sup> See drawing, p. 66.

<sup>4</sup> *Le Beffroi (Bruges)*, tome iv. (1872-73), 202-4.

The names of his children and their marriages were as follows:<sup>1</sup>—

<sup>1</sup> *Harleian MSS.* 5865, f. 30b; *Burke's Extinct Peerages*.

1. Thomas, m. Elizabeth, daughter of George Manners, first Baron Roos.
2. Edith, m. Ralph, Lord Neville, eldest son of Ralph sixth Baron Neville of Raby and third Earl of Westmoreland.
3. John, deputy of Guisnes.
4. Reginald, a priest.
5. Elizabeth, m. Sir Humphry Foster of Aldermaston.
6. Margaret, m. Thomas, son of Sir William Essex.
7. Mary, m. (1) Sir William Peckham; (2) Sir John Palmer of Angmering, Sheriff of Sussex 25 Henry VIII.
8. Alice, m. Walter, Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury.

In consequence of these marriages the arms and devices of Roos, Neville, Foster, Essex, and Hungerford are carved on the wainscoting of the oak gallery<sup>2</sup> at the Vyne.

An extremely curious and interesting inventory of "all and singular the Goodes Catalles Debtes Plate Jewelles and Redy Monye" of Lord Sandys, taken in February 1541, after his decease, was left by Elizabeth his daughter-in-law and executrix with her father Lord Roos, ancestor of the present Duke of Rutland, among whose papers at Belvoir Castle it has recently been found. It affords a curious insight into the domestic arrangements of the household of a great nobleman in the reign of Henry VIII.

The principal reception rooms were at that time used as sleeping-chambers for important guests, and contained magnificent



ficent bedsteads. There was throughout the house an abundance of fine tapestry, and a remarkable scarcity of furniture. In the great dining-chamber itself there was but one chair, and the table consisted of fir boards laid on trestles, while the guests sat upon cushions, stuffed with feathers and covered with leather or tapestry-work, lying upon forms or stools.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> P. 146, *post*.

Some account of the furniture then in the house is given in Chapter VII. The horses, linen, plate, armour, and apparel were as follows:—

#### HORSES IN THE STABLE.

The Flaunders mare; Fetiplace;\* Rone Smyth; Rone Chalcot; The yong Baye; The greate Donne; The White Marke; Parsonne; Grayberd Westmerland; The balde Donne; White Sandes; White Combes; Grayberd Burfeld; A bay Hoby; Benbroke; Bowyer; The Male Horse; The greate Graye Nage; The Lytle Graye Nagge; Bayerd Westmerland.

#### MARES, COLTES, & STALENS & NAGGES AT GRASSE.

v mares in the Vyne Park; one stallion; iiij foals; vj nags; one gelding. At *Mortimer*, ix mares; vj foales; ij stallions.

#### IN THE NAPERY.

A table clothe Damaske wourk of roses & crowns, viij yds. × iiij yds.;  
A diaper Table clothe of coarse Diamonds, vij yds. × ij yds.;  
Another Table cloth of scallop shellys & damaske worke, vij yds. × ij yds.;

---

\* The name of a great Berkshire family, now extinct.

Another

Another Table clothe of Damaske worke of the splayed eagle crowned,  
 vij yds.  $\times$  iij yds. ;  
 Another Table cloth of Damaske of the lily pot and the holy Ghost  
 vj yds.  $\times$  iij yds. ;  
 A cubbord cloth of Damaske wourke of smalle flowers, iv yds.  $\times$  ij yds. ;  
 Another cubbord cloth Damaske wourke braunche & flowers ;  
 A Towell of greate Damaske flowers ;  
 iij playne Table clothes for the Hall, xvij yds.  $\times$  i yd. ;  
 xij carving clothes, old ;  
 viij dozen of Napkyns Damaske worke & Dyaper ;  
 ij fyne cover panes of Damaske wourke ;  
 iij neck towelles.

## IN MY LADYES WARDEROBE.

vij peces of new clothe ;  
 iij pairs of pallet shetes ;  
 iij pairs of fyne shetes of Holland ;  
 vij necke towelles playne clothe ;  
 xxxij surplesses ;  
 A chest full of old linnen & broken ;  
 ij Flaunders chestes, with ij lockes ;  
 A chest of waynscote ;  
 A ship's chest ;  
 xxvij peces of riche embroidery, whereof some be unfynished, for an  
 aulter clothe ;  
 xxxij payr of course shetes ;  
 A brasen mortar with a pestell.

## PLATE GILTE.

ij playne bowls gilt with a cover, cxxxvi oz. ;  
 Goblettes gilt with a cover costed,\* lx oz. ;

---

\* *Richly ornamented.*

A standing bowl with a cover, chased without enamel ;  
 A standing cupp gilt with a cover having a woman in the top, xxxix oz. ;  
 Another standing cup gilt with a cover of antique havynge a man on the  
 top of the cover, xxxv oz. ;  
 Another standing cupp large Antique worke with a cover without  
 enamell, xlv oz. ;  
 Another standing cup chased, with a cover having a blewe flower on the  
 topp, xxiv oz. ;  
 A little lowe standing cup with a cover, having a cronell \* on the cover  
 and graven, without a pomegarnet, xxvij oz. ;  
 Another standing cup graven with Maltravers knottes,† with a cover  
 having a Round Knoppe chased, xxvij oz. ;  
 A gilt goblet with a cover lacking his amel,‡ chased & graven, xx oz. ;  
 A payre of pottes gilt playn pear fashion with covers, lacking their amel,  
 lxvj oz. ;  
 iij gilt cruses with iij covers ;  
 A payr of stocke saltes square with one cover, all gilt with an Angell on  
 the Topp holding my Lordes Armes in a garter, lx oz. ;  
 Another paier of stocke saltes gilt, without a cover, xxxiij oz. ;  
 Another stocke salt gilted with a cover costed, xj oz. ;  
 Another salt with a cover with antique leaves chased, xvj oz. ;  
 A payre of costed saltes with roses, with one cover, with my Lordes  
 Armes on the topp, xxxix oz. ;  
 A payre of square saltes gilt, with one cover graven with fleur de lices,  
 xxxiv oz. ;  
 xxii gilt spones of sundry sortes, xlij oz.

## PLATE PARCELL GILT.

A payr of large pottes parcell gilt with leopards' heddes, with my  
 lordes armes in the garter on the cover, cclxxxij oz. ;

---

\* *Coronal or garland.*

† *The Maltravers family bore a fret or knot sable.*

‡ *Enamel. Fr. émail.*

A large payre of pottes chased parcell gilt, clxi oz. ;  
 A payr of flagons chased, with my lordes badge & garter, excv oz. ;  
 A payre of playne pottes, lxxx oz. ;  
 A beere pott without a cover, xxij oz. ;  
 vj bowls chased, without cover, having my lordes badge in the garter in  
 the topp of the cover, cxxvij oz. ;  
 ix bowls pounced \* with martelettes with iij covers, with my lords badge  
 in the garter in the topps, ccxxij oz. ;  
 iij playn bowls with a cover, with my lordes armes in the garter, in the  
 topp of the cover, clxiv oz. ;  
 iij small bowls with a cover. xc oz. ;  
 ij basannes and ij ewers, with my lordes armes, clxxxv oz. ;  
 ij other basannes with their ewers, with my lordes armes, excv oz. ;  
 ij other basannes with their ewers, with my lordes badge in the garter,  
 ccj oz. ;  
 ij stocke saltes square without covers, xxv oz. ;  
 ij dozen of Trenchers, with gilt swages,† with my lordes badge,  
 ccclxxiv oz. ;  
 One stocke of carving knyves, with x smale knyves and a forke of sylver,  
 with a case of sylver, & the knyves being garnished with sylver,  
 lxxvj oz. ;  
 Another stocke of smale knyves, havynge a cap, xx oz. ;  
 A porrenger with ij ears and a cover with my lordes badge, and the  
 brake,‡ xx oz. ;  
 A spice box with a spone, xxij oz.

## WHITE PLATE.

A payr of flagons with armes on the side, clxxviii oz. ;  
 Another payr of flagons, clxij oz. ;  
 iij lowe water ewers without covers, xliv oz. ;

---

\* *Punched or impressed.*

† *Ornaments of beaten metal.*

‡ *Hempbreaker. See p. 34.*

iij chased goblettes, with one cover, with my lordes badge in the garter  
 on the topp, lxij oz. ;  
 A beer pot, with a cover, playne, lix oz. ;  
 A shaving bason and a pott, plaine, lxxxix oz. ;  
 x table candlestickes, chased, ccclxxxij oz. ;  
 ij payr of snofers, iv oz. ;  
 xxvii spones, xlv oz.

## THE CHAPEL PLATE.

[*This has been described in Chapter II.*]

## JEWELLES.

A smale George, hanging on a black lace ;  
 A smale chayne of gold.

## REDY MONEY JEWELL AND OTHERS.

In Redy money at the tyme of my Lordes decease,	lx <sup>li</sup> ;
A coller of the Garter, empledged for	lx <sup>li</sup> ;
In the handes of Richard Gifford ij nest of goblettes & a chayne of gold empledged for	lii

## IN THE ARMORY.

lxix backes & brestes Almayn Ryvettes ;  
 lvij payr of splyntes ;  
 xxxvj salettes ;  
 ij payr of vambrases ;  
 c blacke bylles ;  
 xxxij chasing staves ;  
 ix payr of Arming stuoppes white ;  
 xx javelyns ;  
 xxxiiij shef of arrowes ;  
 Harnes for xj men of armes complete, lacking their collers ;

Item

Item a Pavilion containing iii chambers and a hall, new, with all their appertenances esteemed and valued at xl<sup>li</sup>;  
 ij clothe sackes;  
 A bare hide.\*

## IN THE WARDEROBE.

A gowne of blacke damaske with ij Burgonyon gardes of blacke velvit, the fore quarters furred with sables & behynde furred with old marteras;†  
 A gowne of blake velvit embroidered with blacke sylke new lyned thorough with blake saten;  
 A coote of purple velvit furred with white lamb & faced round about with lizerdes;  
 A cote of blake velvit embroidered with blake sylke, lyned with Fryse, and edged with sables, woven;  
 A kirtell of crymsen velvit lyned thorough with white sarcenet, for the order of the garter: *item* a robe of purple velvit for the same kyrtyll, with a grete Tassell of gold, with a hode of crymsen velvit to the same lyned with white sarcenet, being all old & much worne;  
 A standard a gittorn & a banar of my lordes armes of sarcenet;  
 iij grose of armyng poyntes threden;  
 A gounne of blake velvet faced with Lyzardes and furred behynde with leopards, bequethed to Sir Humfrey Foster, knight;  
 Another gown of blake velvet embroidered furred with boudge,‡ bequethed to Sir William Essex;  
 A gounne of Frenche blake garded with velvet & facied with damaske, bequethed to Thomas Essex esquier;  
 And a jacket of the same clothe lykewyse garded;  
 A gowne of blake damaske & a jacket of the same, bequethed to Walter Chalcot;  
 A cote of blake velvit with viij buttons of gold, bequethed to John Sandes esquier;

\* A raw hide for a cart cover.

† Marten's fur.

‡ Lamb's fur.



A cote of russet velvit to Humfrey Barkley Esqr. ;  
 A cote of russet velvit to Richard Smythe ;  
 A cote of clothe gardyd with russet velvit to Marmaduke Beke ;  
 A gounne of Taffata to John Cely."

The Inventory also contained a considerable quantity of  
 "stuf being at Malshanger \* that came from the Vyne," including

A pece of hanginges having Saynt George upon it ;  
 A pece of Imagery of fishing and birding ;  
 A counterpoynt of smale verdour with ij Vnicornes

Thomas, second Lord Sandys of the Vyne, succeeded in 1540. He saw the endowment which John de Port of Basing and Sir Thomas de Cowdray had bestowed upon the Chapel taken away in 1548 under the Chantry Acts of Edward VI., and died in 1556, having had four children, Henry, William, Mary, and Anne. Henry, his eldest son (who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Lord Windsor), died before him, leaving a son William, who succeeded to the Vyne on the death of his grandfather, and owned it for no less than sixty-seven years.

This William, third Lord Sandys, entertained Queen Elizabeth at the Vyne in 1569, who during her visit wrote the following letter <sup>1</sup> to the Earl of Huntingdon, desiring him to take charge of Mary Queen of Scots, then with the Earl of Shrewsbury at Wingfield House, Derbyshire :—

<sup>1</sup> *Lodge's  
 Illustrations  
 of British  
 History.*

\* *Malshanger, situated five miles from the Vyne (vide map, p. 3), was the seat of the Warham family and birthplace of William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, who died 1532. Of the ancient house a lofty octagonal tower is still standing. Malshanger is now the residence of Wyndham Portal, Esq.*

“Right trusty and well-beloved Cousin, we greet you well : Whereas we understand that our cousin of Shrewsbury is much troubled with sickness, and like to fall further into the same, in such sort as he neither presently is able, nor shall be, to continue in the charge, which he has, to keep the Queen of Scots, we have, for a present remedy, and to avoid the danger which might ensue, made choice of you to take the charge of the custody of her, until we shall otherwise order : and therefore we earnestly require you with all speed to repair to our cousin of Scotland, with some of your own trusty servants, and there to take charge of the said Queen, wherewith our said cousin will be so well content, as we doubt not but you shall have all that he can command to be serviceable unto you. . . . We will have you also, after conference with our said cousin of Shrewsbury, to devise how the number of the Queen of Scots train might be diminished, and reduced only to thirty persons of all sorts, as was ordered, but as we perceive too much enlarged of late time : You shall also, jointly with the Earl of Shrewsbury, give order that no such common resort be to the Queen as has been, nor that she have liberty to send posts as she hath done, to the great burden of our poor subjects ; and if she have any special cause to send to us, then you shall so permit her servant with the warrant of your hand and none to come otherwise ; and if you shall think of any meetter place to keep her we require you to advertise us thereof, so as we may take order for the same.

“We have written to our cousin of Shrewsbury, whom we have willed to impart to you the contents of our letter, and so we will have you to do these : trusting that you will so consider  
hereof

hereof as the cause requireth, for our honour and quietness, without respect of any person.

"Given under our signet at the manor of the Vine the 22nd of September 1569, the eleventh year of our reign.

"Post script: After we had considered of some part of the premises, we thought in this sort to alter some part thereof: we will that no person be suffered to come from the Queen of Scots with any message or letter, but if she will write to us, you shall offer to send the same by one of yours; and so we will you to do, for our meaning is, that for a season she shall neither send nor receive any message or letters without our knowledge."

On the same day Sir William Cecil (afterwards Lord Burghley), being also at the Vyne, wrote the following letter<sup>1</sup> to the Earl of Shrewsbury:—

<sup>1</sup> *Lodge's  
Illustrations  
of British  
History.*

"My Lord,—My leisure serves me not to write much, but sorry I am to hear of your lack of good health. The Queen's Majesty is entered into no small offence, with the intention, that she thinks hath been to devise, of a marriage with the Scottish Queen. For my part I was not made privy thereof but of late, and, so as it might have been allowed to the Queen's Majesty, I had no particular respect to lead me one way or other, for my only scope is to serve God and Her Majesty, and so I take my leave.

"From the Vine 22nd of Sept. 1569.

"Your Lordships humbly at command,

"W. CECIL."

In

<sup>1</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic)*, 1547-80, p. 481.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1581-90, p. 501.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 1595-97, p. 33.

In 1574, Lord Sandys<sup>1</sup> assisted in making a survey of the forts of Hampshire. In 1587 he was one of the commissioners who sat upon the trial of Mary Queen of Scots; and in 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, he wrote to the Council to assure them that<sup>2</sup> though he was in embarrassed circumstances, he would be ready to bring into the field, for the defence of her Majesty, himself and his household servants, to the number of ten soldiers, and geldings, furnished in armour of proof; and with the help of his tenants he might furnish still more.

In 1595, as spokesman for the justices of Hampshire, he wrote to Lord Burghley<sup>3</sup> requesting the repair of the north aisle of the hall of Winchester Castle, "the only place in the county for holding the assize and sessions, which was so decayed as to be in danger of falling."

He took a prominent part in the insurrection of Essex, 1601, for which he was fined 5,000*l.*; but after a temporary sojourn in the Tower, and a subsequent confinement at Mr. Edward Hungerford's house near Bath, he was pardoned on payment of 1,000*l.*

In the September of the same year, the Duke de Biron, ambassador of the French king Henry IV., came to England to meet Queen Elizabeth, and to consult with her upon the state of Europe, and the designs of the House of Austria. When he arrived, the Queen was staying with the Marquess of Winchester at Basing House, and the Duke and his suite were sumptuously entertained at the Vyne for four or five days at the Queen's charges. There were with him two other ambassadors of rank, with twenty-seven noblemen of France, and a  
great

great number of officers, pages, and lacqueys in attendance, the entire retinue being nearly four hundred persons.

Sir Walter Raleigh was sent to London to meet the Duke and his suite, and he wrote, September 7, 1601, to Sir Robert Cecil:<sup>1</sup> "We have carried them to Westminster to see the monuments, and this Monday we entertained them at the Bear Garden, which they had great pleasure to see. I sent to and fro, and have laboured like a mule to fashion things so as on Wednesday night they shall be at Bagshot, and Thursday at the Vine." And on September 12 he wrote<sup>2</sup> to Henry Burke, Lord Cobham: "The French wear all black, and no kind of bravery at all, so as I have only made me a black Taffeta suit to be in and leave all my other suits."

<sup>1</sup> *Edwards' Life of Raleigh*, vol. ii. p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 234.

Stow says<sup>3</sup> that "the Vine, a fair and large house of the Lord Sandes, was furnished with hangings and plate from the Tower and Hampton Court, and with seven score beds and furniture, which the willing and obedient people of Hampshire upon two days' warning had brought thither to lend to the Queen; and the Duke abode there four or five days all at the Queen's charges, and for that time spent her more at the Vine than her own court spent at Basing: and Her Majesty affirmed that she had done that in Hampshire that none of her ancestors ever did, neither that any prince of Christendom could do, that was, she had in her Progresses in her subjects' houses, entertained a royal ambassador, and had royally entertained him."

<sup>3</sup> *Annals*, p. 796.

The Duke having attended the Queen at Basing, she came in her turn to visit him at the Vyne, and a curious scene occurred in the park. "The sheriff,<sup>4</sup> as the manner is, being bareheaded,

<sup>4</sup> *Stow, Annals*,  
and *ubi sup.*

and riding next before her, stay'd his horse, thinking the Queen would thus have saluted the Duke, whereat the Queen, being much offended, commanded the sheriff to go on. The Duke followed her very humbly, bowing low towards her horse's mane, with his cap off, about two hundred yards. Her Majesty on the sudden took off her mask, looked back on him, and most graciously and courteously saluted him; as holding it not becoming so mighty a prince as she was, and who so well knew all kingly majesty, to make her stay directly against a subject, before he had showed his obedience in following after her."

On leaving Basing, the Queen made ten knights, among whom were Sir William Kingsmill, Sir Benjamin Tichborne, and Sir Edward Hungerford.

<sup>1</sup> *The Court of James I., by Bishop Goodman*, vol. ii. p. 20.

There is an amusing reference to this visit in a letter<sup>1</sup> from Thomas Tooke, clerk of the kitchen at Basing House, to his "very assured good friend Mr. John Hubberd," dated September 19, 1601, in which he tells how "Her Majesty came with Scarborough warning to Basing, where all things for so great entertainment but elbow room and good will were wanting;" and how, "on Saturday the 12th, Mons. de Biron, accompanied with divers French lords and gentlemen, repaired from the Vine, where they were nobly lodged, unto Basing, and on Sunday they invited them to supper, where there was that night great revellings; and so likewise on Monday night and Tuesday's dinner, when we were of them delivered."

<sup>2</sup> *Camden's Life of Elizabeth*, p. 634.

Some French writers say<sup>2</sup> that Queen Elizabeth had with her on this occasion the skull of Essex, and showed it to the Duke de Biron, as a warning not to continue those treasonable designs



designs against his king, for which he was soon after executed at the Bastille.

William third Lord Sandys was twice married, his second wife being Catherine, daughter of Edmund Lord Chandos, the beautiful lady who is celebrated by the poet Gascoigne in the following song,<sup>1</sup> called "Praise of the Fair Brydges, afterwards Lady Sandes, on her having a scar on her forehead."

<sup>1</sup> *Percy's  
Ballads,*  
vol. ii.  
p. 150.

"In Court who so demaundes  
What dame doth much excell,  
For my conceit I must needes say,  
Faure Bridges beares the bel :  
  
Upon whose lively cheeke,  
To prove my judgment true,  
The rose and lillie seeme to strive  
For equall change of hewe :  
  
And therewithall so well  
Her graces all agree,  
No frowning cheere dare once presume  
In hir sweet face to bee.  
  
Although some lavishe lippes,  
Which like some other best,  
Will say the blemishe on her browe  
Disgraceth all the rest."

The poet then tells how Cupid saw in her cradle—

"A peece  
For perfect shape that passeth all  
Apelles' worke in Greece."

And fearing that her beauty would "break him of his rest,"

“ His hot newe-chosen love  
He chaunged into hate ;  
And sodeynly with myghtie mace  
Gan rap hir on the pate.

It greived Nature muche  
To see the cruell deede,  
Mee seemes I see her how she wept,  
To see hir darling bleede.

‘ Wel yet,’ quo’ she, ‘ this hurt  
Shal have some helpe, I trowe :’  
And quick with skin she covered it,  
That whiter is than snowe ;

Wherewith Dan Cupide fled  
For feare of further flame,  
When angel like he saw hir shine  
Whome he had smit with shame.

The skar still there remains ;  
No force : let there it be ;  
There is no cloude that can eclipse  
So bright a sunne as she.”

Lord Sandys died January 21, 1623, having by his will directed that he should be buried in “his Chapel adjoining the Chapel of the Holy Ghost at Basingstoke.” He had two children : William, who died before him without issue ; and Elizabeth, who married Sir Edwyn Sandys of Latymers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Pedigrees of  
British Peers  
(Sandys of  
Latymers),  
vol. v.*

Colonel Henry Sandys, son of Edwyn and Elizabeth (not to be confounded with another Colonel Henry Sandys of Kent, mentioned by Clarendon, a general of the Parliament, who bore an indifferent character), succeeded to the Vyne as his grandfather's

father's heir in 1623. His name appears in the accounts of the Holy Ghost Chapel for Midsummer 1636, as having given some of his oak timber for the building of a new chapel and school. He was an active loyalist, and, having been mortally wounded while fighting for the King at Bramdene, near Alresford, March 29, 1644, died April 6 next ensuing.

In November 1643, during the siege of Basing,<sup>1</sup> the Parliamentary troops under Sir William Waller were quartered at the Vyne in order to resist a relieving force under Sir Ralph Hopton, and it is difficult to understand how the glass of the windows of the Chapel, in which the figures of saints are represented, escaped the fanaticism of the Puritans, unless the tradition<sup>2</sup> is true that it was buried in the water which flows through the grounds.

<sup>1</sup> *Godwin's Civil War in Hampshire*, p. 75.

<sup>2</sup> *Warner's Hampshire*, tit. "Vine."

A lady of the Sandys family figures as the heroine of the following romantic story of the Civil War. She was, it is said, engaged to be married to Sir Bernard Brocas of Beaurepaire, who, in order to show that his love for her did not affect his loyalty, vowed in the next engagement to capture a standard or die. The next fight was the first battle of Newbury, September 20, 1643, and on the morning after the battle he was found dead on the heath, grasping in his hand a standard, and the standard-bearer lying dead by his side. The flag supposed to have been thus captured hung for some time in the lobby of the Chapel Royal, Whitehall,<sup>3</sup> with an inscription beneath it.

<sup>3</sup> *History of the Brocas Family*, p. 234.

Mary, sister of Colonel Sandys of the Vyne, married Richard Atkins of Tuffley, Gloucestershire, and erected a handsome monument to his memory in the Church of St.

Andrew, Sherborne St. John; the shield on it bears the arms of Atkyns impaling those of her father, Sandys of Latymers.

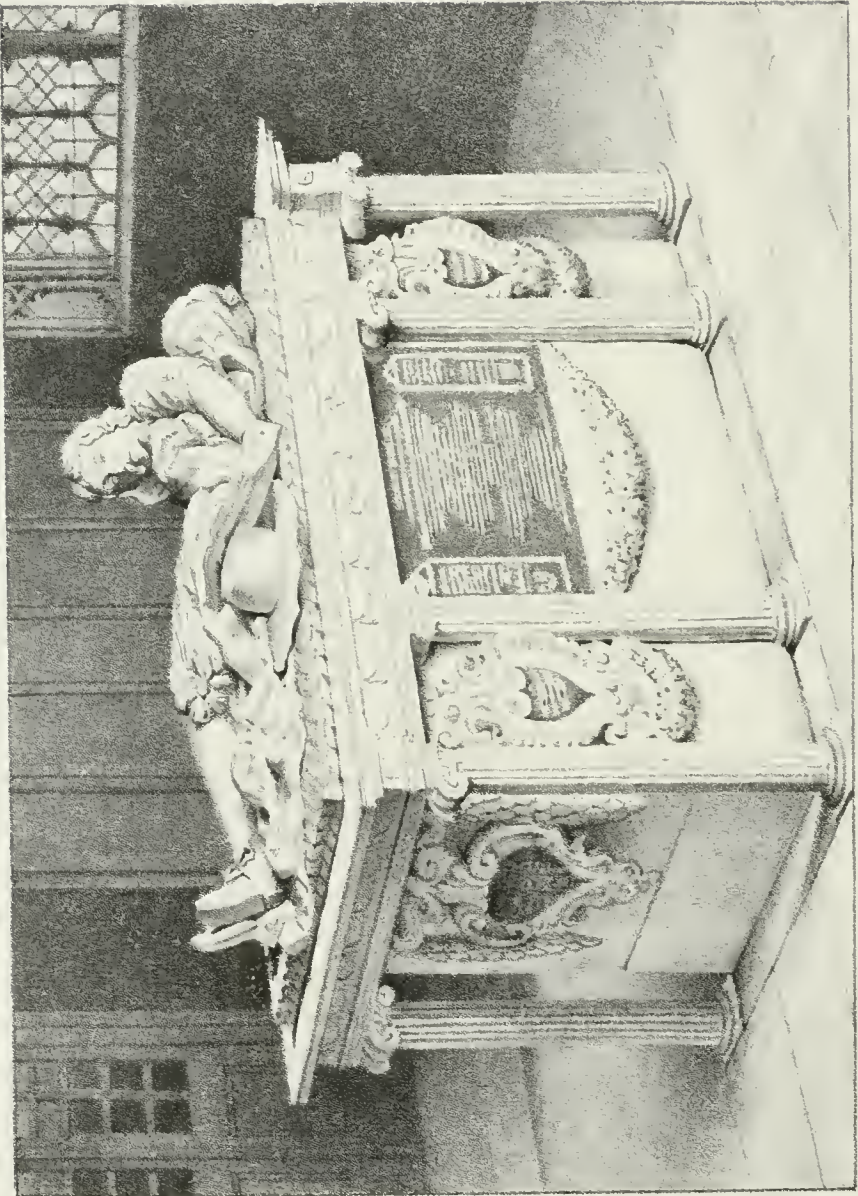
William, son of Colonel Sandys, succeeded to the Vyne 1644, and about five years later was compelled by reverses of fortune to part with his ancestral mansion and estate, which had been previously heavily mortgaged, and to retire to Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey, Hants. This place, formerly a Priory of Canons of the order of St. Augustine, had been seized by Henry VIII., and granted,<sup>1</sup> together with the advowsons of Stockbridge and Kings Somborne, to the first Lord Sandys of the Vyne, in a somewhat unequal exchange for lands anciently belonging to the Sandys family at Paddington and Chelsea, including the present site of Chelsea Hospital.

<sup>1</sup> See 28  
Henry VIII.,  
c. xviii.  
(*Private Act*).

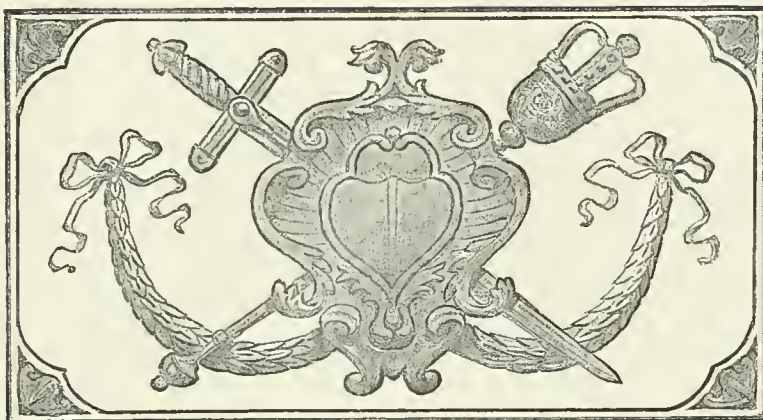
William Sandys was summoned as a peer to Parliament after the Restoration. He died without issue, 1688, and his brothers Henry and Edwyn also dying without issue, this distinguished barony fell into abeyance.











## CHAP IV

## *Chaloner Chute The Speaker.*

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**C**HALONER CHUTE, Speaker of the House of Commons, and the first of the Chutes of the Vyne, was born about 1595. According to the inscription upon his fine marble monument in the Tomb Chamber next the Chapel (Plate VI.), his ancestors possessed the manor of Taunton until the reign of Henry VIII.; but if this be so, they must have held it under the see of Winchester, to which it belonged from Saxon times until the seventeenth century. The family was, however, of ancient standing in Sussex, Kent, and Somersetshire; and can trace<sup>1</sup> a direct male descent from Alexander Chute of Taunton, who died 1268. They are said

<sup>1</sup> *Berry's  
Hampshire  
Genealogies,*  
p. 117.

said to "carry the memorial of the third nation of the Germans that conquered the Britons, commonly called Jutes."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Manning's Lives of the Speakers*, p. 356.

The arms of Chute ("Gules, three swords extended barrways, their points towards the dexter part of the escutcheon, *argent*, their hilts and pommels *or*"),<sup>2</sup> and their crest (an arm in armour gauntleted grasping a broken sword, with the motto "Fortune de guerre"), will be found in the frontispiece. An augmentation of arms was granted to Philip Chute, of Appledore, Kent, standardbearer to King Henry VIII. in his French wars.

<sup>2</sup> *Guillim*, 4th ed. p. 335.

Chaloner Chute's father, Charles Chute, was a barrister of the Middle Temple, and member of Parliament for Thetford in Norfolk, and was appointed<sup>3</sup> to conduct one of the earliest of those experiments for the registration of titles and sales of land which have never ceased to exercise the ingenuity of law reformers down to the present time. His mother was Ursula, daughter of John Chaloner of Fulham, and cousin of Sir Thomas Chaloner, who, having been tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales, son of James I., for whom Bramshill, co. Hants, was built, is commemorated by a fine monument in Chiswick Church.

<sup>3</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic)*, 1619-23, p. 537.

Chaloner Chute's childhood was spent at Kensington, where his younger brother Charles was born in 1600, and his sister Dorothy in 1603, the entries of whose births in the register of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, were made in Latin, while those of less dignified persons are in the vulgar tongue.

Chaloner was admitted a student of the Middle Temple, November 11, 1613, as "*Filius et hæres apparens Caroli Chewte de Kelvedon in comitatu Essexiæ*," and was called to the Bar, May 23, 1623.

He

He married Ann, daughter of Sir John Skory, at St. Mildred's Church in the Poultry, June 14, 1627, and had by her a son, Chaloner, and two daughters, Scicilia and Ann ; the latter married into the family of Henry Barker of Chiswick, of whom there is a striking portrait (dated 1615, ætatis 79) at the Vyne.

Roger North describes<sup>1</sup> Chaloner Chute as "a man of great wit and stately carriage of himself," a description which the full-length portrait of him at the Vyne by Vandyck confirms. "I shall mention here," he continues, "what I have been credibly told as one instance of his loftiness, even while he practised in Chancery. It was in short but this : if he had a fancy not to have the fatigue of business, but to pass his time in pleasure after his own humour, he would say to his clerk, 'Tell the people, I will not practise this term,' and was as good as his word, and then no one durst come nigh him with business. But when his clerks signified he would take business, he was in the same advanced post at the Bar, fully reintegrated as before, and his practice nothing shrunk by the discontinuance. I guess that no Chancery practiser ever did, or will do, the like ; and it shows a transcendent genius, superior to the slavery of a gainful profession."

<sup>1</sup> *Lives of the Norths*, vol. i. p. 13.

He was a wise and far-seeing man, of singular moderation and excellent judgment, who took a fearless and independent part in the perplexing politics of his day, resisting the King when his conduct became arbitrary, but using at the same time all his influence and power of conciliation to restrain the violence of the opposite faction.

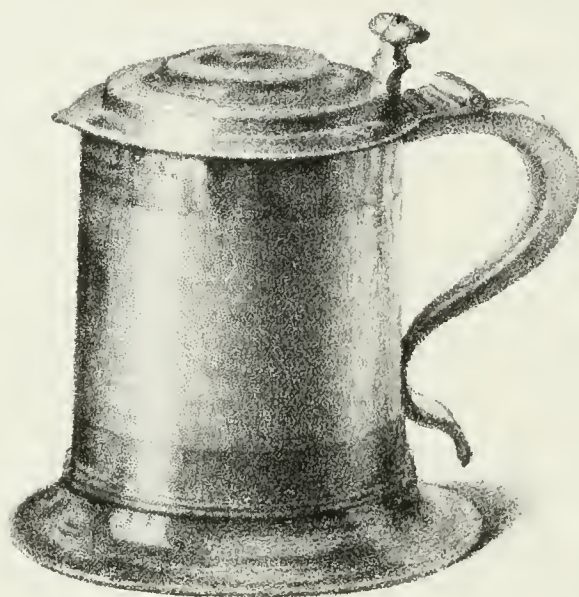
In May 1641, "from which very time did God" (as Fuller says

<sup>1</sup> *Fuller's  
History of  
the Church,*  
book xi.

says),<sup>1</sup> "begin to gather the twigs of that rod—a civil war—where-  
with soon after he intended to whip a wanton nation," his coura-  
geous spirit was put to the proof by an attack made upon the  
bishops of England, on which occasion he distinguished himself  
as a champion of the Church and an opponent of revolutionary  
excesses. The pretext for this attack was the issue by Convo-  
cation of the Canons of 1641, at a time when Parliament was  
not sitting. "No sooner," says Fuller, "came these canons abroad  
into public view, but various were mens censures upon them.  
Some were offended because bowing towards the communion  
table (now called *altar* by many) was not only left indifferent,  
but care was taken that the observers or omitters thereof should  
not mutually censure each other." The House of Commons  
resolved to impeach the bishops before the House of Lords,  
for making canons without the consent of Parliament, and  
they were in danger of losing all their personal property under  
the statute of *Præmunire*. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester,  
retained the best counsel at the bar for the defence; but none  
of those retained had the courage to appear, with the exception  
of Chaloner Chute, "who, being demanded of the lords whether  
he would plead, 'Yea,' said he, 'so long as I have a tongue to  
plead with;'" and he drew up a demurrer, to show that what the  
bishops had done could not amount to an offence within the  
statute. This," continues Fuller,<sup>2</sup> "being shown to John Williams,  
the Bishop of Lincoln" (who was well acquainted with the law,  
having been Keeper of the Seal 1621–25), "he protested that  
he never saw a stronger demurrer in all the days of his life,  
and the notice hereof to the Lords was probably the cause  
that

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*





*Viro venerabili Chalouero Chute  
Armigero votium Johis Epi  
Rossensis ob prudentiam eius  
singularem fortitudinem heroicam  
et sinceram fidem Epis. Angliæ  
mire periclitatis Anº 1641.*



that they waved any further prosecution of the charge, which henceforward sunk into silence."

A fine silver tankard (Plate VII.) was presented to Chaloner Chute in recognition of his distinguished services on this historical occasion. It is still preserved at the Vyne; it weighs 36 ounces, and its height is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The following is a translation of the inscription engraved upon it (see the Plate):—"To the worshipful Chaloner Chute, Esquire, presented by John, Bishop of Rochester, as a memorial of the singular wisdom, heroic courage, and unswerving fidelity shown by him towards the Bishops of England in their extreme peril in the year 1641."

Amongst the remarkable trials in which he was engaged was that of Archbishop Laud, 1643, for whom he "and Master Hearn were assigned to be of counsel, and were permitted to have free access in and out to him."<sup>1</sup>

He was elected a bencher of the Middle Temple, October 31, 1645.

<sup>1</sup> *Cyprianus Anglicanus*  
(*Life of Laud*),  
lib. v. p. 41.

The House of Commons nominated him,<sup>2</sup> together with Sir John Bramston and Sir Thomas Bedingfield, to have the custody of the Great Seal of England, January 13, 1646; but were reluctantly obliged to give way to the House of Lords, who insisted on the appointment of Speaker Lenthall and the Earl of Manchester to this great office.

<sup>2</sup> *Whitelock's Memorials*,  
pp. 238, 244.

In July 1647, he defended<sup>3</sup> the eleven members whom Cromwell charged with high treason, as enemies to the army and evil counsellors to the Parliament; and in the same year, the city of Oxford having surrendered to Sir Thomas Fairfax, and an ordinance having been passed for the "Visitation and Reformation

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 261.

Reformation of the University," commonly known as the "Puritan Visitation," he was selected by John Selden and the heads of colleges to act as their counsel, together with the celebrated Sir Matthew Hale. In February 1648, he was selected to be counsel for the Duke of Cambridge;<sup>1</sup> and in February 1649, for James Duke of Hamilton, on whose behalf, says Burnet,<sup>2</sup> he "spoke learnedly and well, and Mr. Hale elaborately and at length."

<sup>1</sup> *Whitelock*,  
p. 375.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs of  
the Duke of  
Hamilton*,  
p. 392.

<sup>3</sup> Ch. lxx.; and  
see *Whitelock*,  
p. 405.

Lord Campbell relates, in his "Lives of the Chancellors,"<sup>3</sup> how Chute and some other public-spirited barristers spent the Long Vacation of 1649 in making new rules for the conduct of suits in Chancery, which have been greatly for the advantage of the suitors in that court for succeeding generations.

He became the purchaser of the Vyne from William fourth Lord Sandys about the time of the execution of King Charles I., though the final conveyance was dated a few years later, June 10, 1653. This purchase fulfilled almost to the letter the precept in Juvenal<sup>4</sup>:—

<sup>4</sup> *Satire* xiv.  
l. 191.

"Clamosus juvenem pater excitat ; accipe ceras,  
Scribe puer, vigila, causas age, perlege rubras  
Majorum leges, aut vitem posce libello ;"

for Chaloner Chute was a learned lawyer and an intrepid advocate, and the Vyne was the prize of his successful pleading.

The eminent position to which he had at this time attained is attested in a most remarkable manner by the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of England, A.D. 1651 (see Plate opposite). This seal is a great curiosity, and bears on its obverse a map  
of

*The GREAT-SEAL of the  
Common-Wealth of ENGLAND.*

*done by Tho Simon*



*This Engraving from a Curious Proof Impression in Wax  
which was in the Collection of the R<sup>t</sup>. Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Earl of OXFORD,  
now in Possession of her Grace the DUTCHESS of PORTLAND.*



of England and Ireland, "so distinctly expressed and named in such minute characters,"<sup>1</sup> says George Vertue (from whose drawing of the seal the plate is copied), "as to make it a work truly admirable and beyond compare." More curious still is the fact, that though there are six places only marked in Hampshire, one of these is "The Vine;" the other five being Winchester, Hampton (Southampton), Portsmouth, Basingstoke, and Andover. It can hardly be doubted that the esteem and respect entertained by the Parliament for the noble character and influential position of Chaloner Chute led them to pay him the remarkable compliment of causing his residence to be inscribed on the Great Seal of the Commonwealth.

<sup>1</sup> *Simon's Medals*, p. 5.

Chaloner Chute married, as his second wife, Dorothy, widow of Richard Lennard thirteenth Baron Dacre of Hurstmonceaux, and daughter of Dudley third Baron North. This marriage was the occasion of four interesting portraits being brought to the Vyne, two of the North and two of the Dacre family:—

(1) Dudley third Lord North, called the "old" Lord North, father of Dorothy Lady Dacre, grandfather of the Lord Keeper North: succ. 1600, d. 1666, aged 85.

(2) Sir John North, son of Roger second Baron North, father of the "old" Lord North: d. 1597.

(3) Chrysogona, daughter of Sir Richard Baker of Sissenhurst, Kent, a little girl in a quaint dress at the age of six (A.D. 1579), who became the wife of Henry Lennard twelfth Baron Dacre.

(4) Mary, wife of Thomas Fienes ninth Baron Dacre, who was executed at the age of twenty-four in 1540, as accessory

L

to



<sup>1</sup> See *Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. i. p. 144.

to the death of a keeper, when he and others had gone by night in a frolic to hunt deer in Sir Nicholas Pelham's park at Crowhurst, Kent. A similar picture <sup>1</sup> is at Belhus, Essex, the seat of Sir Thomas Lennard.

Chaloner Chute was elected Treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1655; and while he was serving this office, his nephew, the future Lord Keeper North, was brought by his father, Sir Dudley, to be admitted as a student. Roger North tells how Sir Dudley "treated hardly about the fine of admission, which is in the Treasurer's power to tax, and he may use any one well if he pleaseth. Mr. Treasurer asked Sir Dudley what he was willing to give; and, the common fine being 5*l.*, he answered 3*l.* 10*s.* 'Well,' said the Treasurer, 'lay down the money,' which being done he called for the young man's hat, and swept it all in, and gave it him, and, marking the admission '*nil*,' or *nothing*, 'let this,' said he, 'be a beginning of your getting money here,' where his Lordship made good the omen."

<sup>2</sup> P. 677.

He was elected Knight of the Shire for Middlesex in 1656, and again in 1658. Whitelock <sup>2</sup> says that he was "an excellent orator, a man of good parts and generosity, of whom many doubted he would not join with the Protector's party, but he did heartily."

<sup>3</sup> *Guizot's Life of R. Cromwell*, pp. 46, 295.

Upon the assembling of Parliament under Richard Cromwell, January 29, 1659, he was unanimously chosen Speaker of the House of Commons. The French ambassador, M. de Bordeaux, in a letter to Cardinal Mazarin dated February 3-6, 1659, says <sup>3</sup> that "the Parliament proceeded to elect its Speaker, who is one of the most celebrated lawyers in the nation



nation, and there appeared to be no diversity of opinion regarding his election."

He made the following address on being led to the chair:<sup>1</sup> "As the form is, gentlemen, you called me to this place for directions, so that I must not give ill examples, by troubling you with a long speech. I never knew much said in long speeches. I never loved them. I desire that you would think of me as the motto on the sundial is—'*Aspice me ut te aspiciam.*'"

<sup>1</sup> *Burton's Diary*, vol. iii. pp. 4, 18.

Two days after his election, Hazlerig addressed him (speaking of his jurisdiction to send for certain records): "Yourself is now the greatest man in England. I look upon you so, except what is to be excepted. I had almost forgot myself, but I am pretty right yet. I say, I look upon you as the greatest man in England."

He had at once to preside over late sittings and long debates on two exciting questions: first, whether the Protectorate should continue; and secondly, whether there should be a House of Lords, and, if so, who should be summoned to it. The discussion of the latter question occupied twenty-three sittings. The republicans used violent language against the Peers, while several members openly expressed their admiration of the Barons of the realm, "who had fought for Magna Charta, and were anciently the great bulwark and defence of the liberties of the nation." The Speaker, being a man of moderate views, and respected by all parties, "so much gained the affection of the House," says Whitelock,<sup>2</sup> "that he swayed much with them."

<sup>2</sup> P. 677.

The incessant fatigue of his office, however, was too great a strain upon his health, and, after an ineffectual struggle to  
continue

continue his duties, he obtained leave of absence, and went to Sutton Court, an estate belonging to him at Chiswick. Here, as a special mark of honour, the Lord Fairfax and other members visited him by order of the House of Commons.

His retirement was speedily followed by his death, April 14, 1659. He died, to use the words inscribed upon his monument at the Vyne, "in the service of his arduous post, to the regret of all parties." Lord Clarendon himself wrote,<sup>1</sup> May 9, 1659, from Rome to his friend Mr. Mordaunt, "I am heartily sorry for the death of the Speaker, whom I have known well, and am persuaded that he would never have subjected himself to that place if he had not entertained some hope of being able to serve the King." And a contemporary historian,<sup>2</sup> describing the military cabal which ended in the resignation of Richard Cromwell, says that "in the heat of the business died Master Chaloner Chute the Speaker, a man fit in every respect for the chair, and of a judgment and resolution cross to the sway of the times, which he was designed in this place to oppose."

<sup>1</sup> *Clarendon's State Papers*, vol. iii. pp. 453, 464, 465.

<sup>2</sup> *James Heath's Brief Chronicle of the Late Intestine Wars*.

His will, dated June 3, 1653, "written all with his owne hand," and signed at Sutton Court, bears witness to the pious dignity of his character. "It hath pleased Almighty God" (he begins) "of His great good will since the making of some former wills to alter my condition in several particulars, adding thereby infinitely to my contentment & bounden duty to blesse His holy name, and ever assuredly to trust in His mercy and goodness towards me in His beloved Sonne Jesus Christ my Savior." He then speaks of "the naturall infirmity of my body, which dayly summons me to another life," and "the violence

violence and distraction of these times, which He that can bring light out of darkness will in the end dispose, I am sure, to His Glory ;” and, after devising the Vyne and his lands in Hampshire to his son Chaloner in fee, he concludes: “ May the Infinite Almighty and most Gracious God, who hath vouchsafed me His goodness in abundant measure, goe along with my sonne in the whole course of his life, that, with an humble mind and a generous carriage, he may make himself acceptable to good men, continue to be beloved of all those that relate to him, be an ornament to his family, and dye the true servant of the God of his father.”

It is also significant of a religious and contemplative mind, that in the copy of Kenelm Digby’s “Treatise on the Immortality of Reasonable Souls,” which belonged to him, and is still at the Vyne, are inscribed the words, “Sum e libris Chaloneri Chute præcipuis.”

He was, in accordance with his will, buried in the Church of St. Nicholas, Chiswick. In the county hall at Winchester his arms deservedly occupy a conspicuous position among those of other Hampshire worthies. The beautiful recumbent figure of him in his Speaker’s robes, erected by his descendant John Chute, has already been mentioned, and a full description of it will be found in Chapter VII.

He removed the base court towards the water, and built the Portico and Summer House (Plate VIII. p. 85) at the Vyne.

He left surviving him his widow Dorothy, Lady Dacre, and his son, Chaloner Chute, who married Catherine Lennard, daughter of the said Lady Dacre. Guillim,<sup>1</sup> in his “Display of  
Heraldry

<sup>1</sup> 4th ed.  
(1660), p. 335.

Heraldry," speaks of him as "a worthy successor of his father's virtues."

The second Chaloner Chute was elected Member for Devizes 1656, three years before his father's death, and was amongst those whom Oliver Cromwell tried to exclude from the House on September 22 of that year, as unfriendly to the Protectorate. Thereupon he and the other excluded members drew up a Remonstrance, in which they protested<sup>1</sup> that "if our kings might have commanded away from the Parliament all such persons of conscience, wisdom, and honour as could not be corrupted, frightened, or cozened by them to betray their country, our ancestors could not have left us either liberties or estates to defend." At a later period he was member for the city of Westminster.

<sup>1</sup> *Whitelock's Memorials*, p. 640.

He died in the year of the Great Fire of London, 1666, aged thirty-six, and was buried by his father's side at Chiswick. He left three sons, Chaloner, Edward, and Thomas; and one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Sir Charles Cotterell, of the fine old manor house of Rousham, Oxfordshire.

The three younger children were maintained by a charge on the Vyne estate, Dorothy, Lady Dacre, their grandmother, acting as guardian; and the Lord Keeper North devised for her security a precaution which, though now a matter of every day practice in Chancery, was then novel, viz., that she should herself bring an action to have the accounts taken. "And this," says Roger North,<sup>2</sup> "preserved her, who kept no good account, from oral testimonies of imaginary values, which had pinched her to the quick if she had not had that defence: it fell not under every ones cap to give so good advice."

<sup>2</sup> *Lives of the Norths*, vol. i. f. 87.

The

The Lord Keeper took especial care of Thomas, the third son,<sup>1</sup> who, being placed at the Middle Temple by Lady Dacre, obtained by his influence a lucrative office in the law, and married, in 1687, Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Rivett of Brandeston, Suffolk. The Vyne eventually came to his descendants, on the failure of male issue of his elder brothers, Chaloner and Edward.

<sup>1</sup> *Lives of the Norths*, vol. i. p. 16; vol. ii. p. 221.

A letter from Thomas Chute, March 8, 1697, to his cousin Barrett Lennard, has been preserved,<sup>2</sup> in which he proposes to go with Lord Lovelace and Mr. Hoskins to Belhus, "to destroy that subtle species called foxes out of your country, in which we think we shall not only divert ourselves but do the country service."

<sup>2</sup> *MS.* at *Belhus, Essex.*

Chaloner the eldest brother was born 1656, succeeded 1666, and died November 16, 1685. He wrote from the Vyne, July 18, 1682, to Mr. Herbert of Belvoir,<sup>3</sup> then living with John ninth Earl and afterwards first Duke of Rutland, known<sup>4</sup> as a patron of music: "Judge of everything concerning me by my readiness to send you the tune and words you desired of me." And in another letter of October 26, he says: "I find myselfe unable to acknowledge those obliging marks of favour that my lord is pleased almost every day to show me. . . . I hope a barrell or two of Colchester Oysters will be no less acceptable at Belvoir than a Belvoir doe att London. If I am not mistaken, I remember the time when he seemed as greate a lover of them as I of Belvoir venison. I have sent the oysters by the Grantham carryer." From other letters at Belvoir it appears that he sought in marriage the Lady Bridget Noel, daughter of Viscount Campden, and sister of the Countess of Rutland; she died unmarried in 1719.

<sup>3</sup> *MS.* at *Belvoir.*

<sup>4</sup> *Rees' Cyclopaedia*, tit. "*Rutland, Duke of.*"

Edward

Edward Chute, who was born 1658, succeeded his brother Chaloner, 1685; he was educated at Winchester College, and New College, Oxford, of which society he became a fellow August 12, 1678. The Lord Keeper North, his cousin, placed him<sup>1</sup> "with Dr. Brevint, a French refugee, and Prebendary of Westminster, where by the family conversation, as well as some instruction, he might acquire a ready use of the French tongue; and finding him fit," he recommended him to a clerkship under Sir Leoline Jenkins, Secretary of State to Charles II.

<sup>1</sup> *Lives of the Norths*, vol. ii. p. 220.

Some letters are preserved which he wrote in this capacity, 1683-84, to Sir Edward Bulstrode, who, having been adjutant to the army of Charles I. after Naseby, became envoy at Brussels after the Restoration, and died in exile with the Stuarts at the age of 101. At the period when these letters were written, the discovery of the Rye House Plot had given the King a pretext for severe measures against the Whigs; while the corruption of justice, as shown in the trials of Russell and Sidney, and the despicable foreign policy adopted in subservience to Louis XIV., were already paving the way for the Revolution of 1688.

<sup>2</sup> *MS. at the Vyne.*

In the first letter,<sup>2</sup> dated Whitehall, July 9, 1683, he wrote: "There continue to be further discoveries of the late conspiracy and designed insurrection. My Lord Howard was pleased to be very ingenuous upon his examination this day before his Majesty: since which my Lord Brandon Gerard and Mr. Hambden have been committed to the Tower. Captain Wallcott, whose name is in the first Proclamation, was taken yesterday, and committed to Newgate. The trial of my Lord Russell is certainly to be on Thursday next."

A



A second letter is <sup>1</sup> dated February 4, 1684 (at which time, <sup>1</sup> *MS. at the*  
as we learn from Evelyn's Diary, the frost was so severe that *Vyne.*  
streets of booths were set up on the Thames, and the seas were  
so locked up with ice that for eight weeks no ships could stir  
in or out), and in it he mentions that "the frozen sea keeps us  
in utter dearth of news, and the theme of almost everybody's  
discourse is our own ice at home, which is like to bring a worse  
dearth upon a great many poor people. My Lord Danby's plea  
was heard at the King's Bench this morning."

A third letter,<sup>2</sup> dated February 15, 1684, gives intelligence <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*  
that Sir Samuel Barnardiston, foreman of the grand jury which  
ignored the bill of indictment against Lord Shaftesbury, "was  
tried yesterday, and found guilty upon an information preferred  
against him for spreading false and seditious news, and for  
arraigning the Government by affirming that my Lord Russell  
and Mr. Sidney died innocently. We are alarmed with a piece  
of news from Holland, which says that the Prince of Orange has  
attacked some of the Amsterdammers, whom he charged with  
holding correspondence with France, after having disclosed the  
matter to the States General with an oath of secrecy from them,  
and that the Deputys from the Hague went out of their houses  
at midnight hereupon in great disgust."

In a fourth letter<sup>3</sup> of March 10, 1684, he says, "My being at <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*  
the assizes at Winchester will excuse me, I hope, for acknow-  
ledging myself to you no sooner: my business was to serve  
Sir Wm. Kingsmill, of that country, who was tried for killing a  
gentleman his near relation, upon a sudden quarrel between  
them, and found guilty of manslaughter. The Duke of Ormond

is like to recover of a fever which he has had, and been very dangerously ill."

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the Vyne.*

A letter<sup>1</sup> of March 17, 1684, mentions the death of Mrs. Godolphin, whose memoir, written by John Evelyn, and edited by Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, reveals her as the purest of characters in the most dissolute of courts. "This afternoon Mrs. Godolphin, Maid of Honour to the Queen, died of the small-pox, after she had been almost past the danger, as was thought. 'Tis believed that the Duke of Grafton will be made Governor of the Isle of Wight in a little time, Sir Robert Holmes being very infirm, and, as they say, very much inclined to live a retired life, for which reason he resigns that charge. We have nothing but complaints of the severity of the weather from Newmarket, from whence the Prince is expected to-morrow, the Duke on Thursday, His Majesty on Saturday next. Mrs. Temple, Maid of Honour to the Princess, is said to be married by proxy to Sir Thomas Lynch, Governour of Jamaica."

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

The last letter,<sup>2</sup> dated March 24, 1684, tells that "His Majesty and the rest of the Court that were at Newmarket returned hither upon Saturday last, and are in most perfect health. . . . There is a long memorial which the Dutch Ambassador presented to His Majesty yesterday by way of reply to the answer of his last memorial: I am not able to give you any account of it here, having not had the opportunity to read it yet.

"I am, Sir, your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>,

"E. CHUTE."

Edward Chute married Katharine, daughter of Sir Anthony Keck

Keck, widow of Ferdinand Tracy, in 1686. He kept race-horses at the Vyne, and in the year of the Revolution won a handsome silver punch-bowl at the Basingstoke races, then run on the downs west of the town. This bowl, which is preserved at the Vyne, is nine inches in height and twelve in diameter, and is richly chased with quaint figures of Oriental character engaged in various field sports; it is surmounted with a crenelated rim, and bears the date "Oct: y<sup>e</sup> 2nd 1688."

Edward Chute was High Sheriff of Hampshire in 1699. He lived through the shifting politics of Anne and George I., as a staunch supporter of the House of Hanover. He died April 18, 1722, aged 65, was buried in the church of Sherborne St. John, and was succeeded by his son Anthony.

Of Anthony Chute, who was born March 6, 1691, little is recorded. He seems to have kept race-horses like his father, if we may trust his portrait, which has a race-horse and jockey in the background. He was elected member of Parliament for Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight in 1734, having stood for the county without success in the same year against Lord Harry Powlett and Edward Lisle. On the occasion of the county contest, Charles Powlett Duke of Bolton, of Hackwood, wrote to "the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, and other frecholders of Basingstoke," the following remarkable letter.

"14 April, 1734.

"Gentlemen,—As it is with great Reluctancy that I am obliged to oppose Mr. Chute's Election for the county, but since he has put it out of my power to promote his Interest, I  
desire

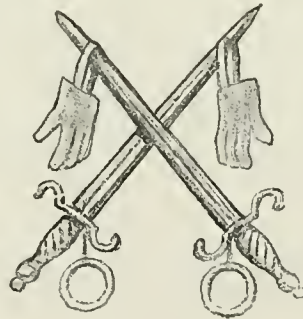
desire you will not give him your votes at the next Election. I will say no more to you though I have provocation enough, but the not voteing at all will equally oblige

“Y<sup>r</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>,

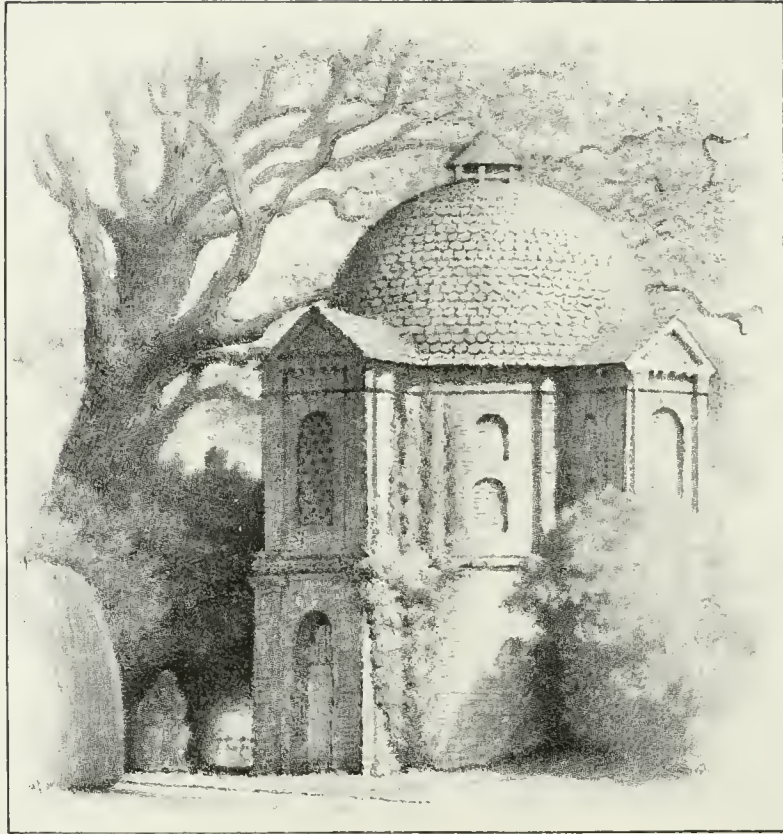
“B——N.”

Anthony Chute died 1754, unmarried and intestate. All his brothers predeceased him, except John the youngest, who succeeded him as next heir. There is a monument in the church of St. Lawrence, Rotterdam, to his brother Chaloner, who died in that city May 5, 1705.

There are pictures at the Vyne of Chaloner Chute, the Speaker, and of both his wives ; of his son and grandson, both named Chaloner ; and of his younger grandsons Edward and Thomas ; also of Anthony, son of Edward ; and of Thomas Lennard and Elizabeth, children of Thomas.

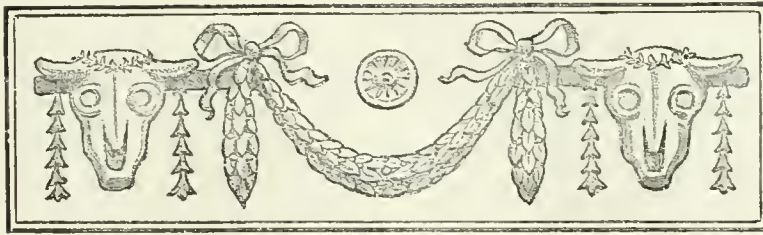






VIII





CHAP. V

*John Chute, Gray &  
Horace Walpole*

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**J**OHN CHUTE, who succeeded his brother Anthony at the Vyne in 1754, was born December 30, 1701, the tenth and youngest child of Edward Chute and his wife Katharine. He was educated at Eton College, then under the rule of Dr. Godolphin as Provost, who was brother of the Minister, and set up the statue of Henry VI. in the school-yard. Afterwards, at the Vyne, using the Speaker's summer-house (Plate VIII.), then decorated within and furnished with statuary, for his Temple of the Muses, he applied himself further to literature and archæological studies, thus acquiring accomplishments which, together with his social qualities, endeared him to Horace Walpole and the poet Gray.

From the death of his father in 1722, until that of his brother Anthony in 1754, he lived principally abroad, spending  
much

much of his time in Florence at Casa Ambrosio, the house of Horace Mann, the British Resident. Here, in 1740, he made the acquaintance of Walpole and Gray, who had just completed their studies at Eton and Cambridge, and were travelling together upon the Continent.

Gray parted company with Walpole at Reggio, through an unfortunate disagreement, in the spring of 1741, and consoled himself with the companionship of John Chute and his young relative, Francis Thistlethwayte, of Southwick Park, Hampshire, who had recently taken the name of Whithed under his uncle's will. These three spent the festival of Ascensiontide, 1741, in Venice together, after which Gray returned to England, and having, soon after his arrival, visited Galfridus, twin brother of Horace Mann, in London, wrote as follows to John Chute, in reply to a letter from him, enclosing one from Mann. The latter was at this time much tried by illness, which he bore most patiently.

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the  
Vyne, not  
before printed.*

“My dear Sir,<sup>1</sup>—I complain no more, you have not then forgot me. Mrs. Dick, to whom I resorted for a dish of coffee, instead thereof produced your kind letter, big with another, no less kind, from our poor mangled friend; to whom I now address myself (you don't take it ill?), and let him know that, as soon as I got hither, I took wing for the Strand to see a certain acquaintance of his (for I then knew not whether he were dead or alive), and get some news of him. I was so struck with the great resemblance between them, that it made me cry out. He

is

is a true eagle, but a little tamer and a little fatter than the eagle resident: I told him so, but he did not seem to think it so great a compliment as I did. His house was half pulled down, but rising again more magnificent from its ruins. He received me as became a bird of his race, and suffer'd himself to be caressed without giving me one peck or scratch; the only bad thing I know of him is that he wears a frock and a bob-wig. May I charge you, my dear Mr. Chute (I give you your great name for want of a little tiny one), with my compliments to Dr. Cocchi, Benevoli (tho' I hate him), and their patient, particularly to this last for recovering so soon, and so much to my satisfaction. I think one may call him dear creature, and be fond in security under the sanction of your cover. I carried his Museum Florentinum to Commissioner Haddock, who is Liddel's uncle. That gentleman had left Paris, having been elected for some place in this Parliament, and (tho' it is like to be controverted) took that opportunity to return to England for a time, but is now gone, I think, to Spain. Adieu, Mr. M.

*"Nunc ad te totum me converto, suavissime Chutè,* whom I wrote to from Dover. If this be London, Lord send me to Constantinople: either I or it are extremely odd: the boys laugh at the depth of my ruffles, the immensity of my bag, and the length of my sword. I am as an alien in my native land, yea I am as an owl among the small birds. It rains: every body is discontented, and so am I. You can't imagine how mortifying it is to fall into the hands of an English barber. Lord, how you or Pclleri would storm in such a case! Don't think of coming  
hither

hither without Lavour or something *equivalent* to him (not an *elephant*). The natives are alive and flourishing: the fashion is a grey frock with round sleeves, bob wig, or a spencer, plain hat with enormous brims and shallow crown cocked as bluff as possible, muslin neckcloth twisted round, rumpled, and tucked into the breast: all this with a certain *Sà-faring* air, as if they were just come back from Cartagena. If my pockets had anything in them, I should be afraid of every body I met: look in their face, they knock you down; speak to them, they bite off your nose. I am no longer ashamed in public, but extremely afraid. If ever they catch me among 'em, I give them leave to eat me. So much for Dress; as for Politics, every body is extremely angry with all that has been or shall be done. Even a victory at this time would be looked upon as a wicked attempt to please the nation. The theatres open not till to-morrow, so you will excuse my giving no account of them to-night. Now I have been at home and seen how things go there, would I were with you again, that the remainder of my dream might at least be agreeable. As it is, my prospect cannot well be more unpleasing; but why do I trouble your good nature with such considerations? Be assured, that when I am happy (if that can ever be), your esteem will greatly add to that happiness; and when most the contrary, will always alleviate what I suffer. Many, many thanks for your kindness, for your travels, for your news, for all the trouble I have given and must give you. Omit nothing when you write, for things that were quite indifferent to me at Florence, at this distance become interesting. Humble service to Polleri: obliged for his harmonious salutation

tion. I hope to see some scratches with his black claw in your next. Adieu!

"I am most sincerely and ever yours,

"T. G.

"London, Sept. 7, O.S. [1741].

"P.S.—Nobody is come from Paris yet."

The expression "an *equivalent*, not an *elephant*," alludes to an old and well-known story of an Anglo-Indian, who wrote to a friend in England, promising him an "equivalent," for kindnesses done, and his friend by mistake read "equivalent" as "elephant," and made preparations for the animal accordingly.

In this same year, 1741, Walpole, now in the House of Commons, supported John Chute's brother Francis, a Chancery barrister, as a candidate for Parliamentary honours. In a letter to Mann, December 10, 1741, he wrote:<sup>1</sup> "You can't conceive how I was pleased with the vast and deserved applause that Mr. Chute's brother the lawyer got. I never heard a clearer or a finer speech. When I went home, 'Dear Sir,' said I to Sir Robert, 'I hope Mr. Chute will carry his election for Heydon: he would be a great loss to you.' He replied, 'We will not lose him.' I, who meddle with nothing, especially elections, and go to no committees, interest myself extremely for Mr. Chute."

<sup>1</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. i. p. 99.

On January 22, 1742, Walpole describes in a letter<sup>2</sup> to John Chute his introduction to his brother Anthony, whom Sir Robert had brought home to dinner, and adds, "Now, Mr. Chute, I know both your brothers"

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 122.

Gray wrote to him again from London on May 24, 1742:—

N

"My

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the  
Vyne.*

“My dear Sir,<sup>1</sup>—Three days ago as I was in the Coffee house very deep in advertisements, a servant came in and waked me (as I thought), with the name of Mr. Chute ; for half a minute I was not sure but that it was you, transported into England by some strange chance, till he brought me to a coach that seemed to have lost its way by looking for a needle in a bottle of hay ; in it was a lady, who said she was not you but only a near relation, and was so good to give me a letter, with which I returned to my den in order to prey upon it. I had wrote to you but a few days ago, and am glad of so good an excuse to do it again, which I may the better do, as my last was all out, and nothing to the purpose, being designed for a certain Mr. Chute at Rome, and not him at Florence.

“I learn from it that I have been somewhat smarter than I ought, but (to shew you with how little malice) I protest I have not the least idea what it was : my memory would be better did I read my own letters so often as I do yours. You must attribute it to a sort of kittenish disposition that scratches when it means to caress ; however, I don't repent neither, if 'tis that has made you write. I know I need not ask pardon, for you have forgiven me ; nay, I have a good mind to complain myself. How could you say, that I designed to hurt you, because I knew you could feel ? I hate the thoughts of it and would not for the world wound anything that was sensible. 'Tis true, I should be glad to scratch the careless or the foolish, but no armour is so impenetrable as indifference and stupidity ; and so I may keep my claws to myself. . . .

“Did I tell you about Mr. Garrick, that the Town are horn-  
mad



mad after? There are a dozen Dukes of a night at Goodmansfields sometimes, and yet I am stiff in the opposition. Our fifth Opera was the Olympiade, in which they retain'd most of Pergolesi's songs, and yet 'tis gone already, as if it had been a poor thing of Galuppi's. Two nights did I enjoy it all alone, snug in a nook of the gallery, but found no one in those regions had ever heard of Pergolesi; nay, I heard several affirm it was a composition of Pescetti's; now there is a sixth sprung up by the name of Cefalo & Procri.

"My Lady of Queensbury is come out against my Lady of Marlborough; and she has her spirit too and her originality, but more of the woman I think than t'other; as to the facts, it don't signify two pence who's in the right, the manner of fighting and character of the Combatants is all: 'tis hoped old Sarah will at her again.

"The Invalides at Chelsea intend to present Ranelagh Gardens as a nuisance for breaking their first sleep with the sound of fiddles: it opens I think to-night. Messieurs the Commons are to ballot for 7 persons to-morrow, commissioned to state the public accounts, and they are to be such who have no places, nor are any ways dependent on the King. The Committee have petition'd for all papers relating to the Convention: a bill has passed the lower House for indemnifying all who might subject themselves to penalties by revealing any transaction with regard to the conduct of my Lord Orford, and to-morrow the Lords are summon'd about it. The Wit of the times consists in satirical prints. I believe there have been some hundreds within this month; if you have any hopeful young designer of caricaturas  
that

that has a political turn, he may pick up a pretty subsistence here ; let him pass thro' Holland to improve his taste. By the way, we are all very sorry for poor Queen Hungary ; but we know of a second battle (which perhaps you may never hear of but from me), as how Prince Lobbycock came up in the nick of time, and cut 120,000 of 'em all to pieces, and how the King of Prussia narrowly escaped aboard a ship, and so got down the Daunub to Wolf in Bottle, where Mr. Mallyboyce lay incamp'd, and how the Hannoverians with Prince Hissy Castle at their head fell upon the French Mounseers, and took him away with all his Treasure, among which is Pitt's Diamond and the Great Cistern. All this is firmly believed here and a vast deal more ; upon the strength of which we intend to declare war with France.

“ You are so obliging as to put me in mind of our last year's little expeditions ; alas, Sir, they are past, and how many years will it be, at the rate you go on, before we can possibly renew them in this country ? In all probability I shall be gone first on a long expedition in that undiscover'd country from whose bourn no Traveller returns ; however (if I can) I will think of you as I sail down the *River of Eternity*. I can't help thinking that I should find no difference almost between this world and t'other (for I converse with none but the dead here), only indeed I should receive nor write no more letters. . . .

“ My Dab of musick and prints you are very good to think of sending with your own ; to which I will add a farther trouble by desiring you to send me some of the roots of a certain flower w<sup>ch</sup> I have seen at Florence ; it is a huge white hyacinth tinged with

with pink (Mr. M. knows what I mean, by the same token that they grow sometimes in the fat Gerina's *boosom*). I mean if they bear a reasonable price, which you will judge of for me ; but don't give yourself any pains about it, for if they are not easily had and at an easy rate I am not at all eager for them. Do you talk of *strumming*? Ohime! who have not seen the face of a harpical since I came home. No ; I have hanged up my harp on the willows : however, I look at my music now and then, that I may not forget it ; for when you return I intend to sing a song of thanksgiving, and praise the Lord with a cheerful noise of many stringed instruments. Adieu, dear Sir.

" I am sincerely yours,

" T. G.

" May (O.S.), London.

" Not forgetting my kiss hands to Mr. Whithed."

The date of this letter—May 24, 1742—is determined by the incidents referred to in it, viz., the proceedings taken against Sir Robert Walpole, who had been Prime Minister for twenty-one years, and was now reluctant to go to war for the sake of Maria Theresa, which made him unpopular and caused his fall ; the opening of the Rotunda at Ranelagh Gardens ; the *début* of Garrick at Goodman's Fields near the Minories ; and the performance of Pergolesi's music, which Gray had done much to introduce into England.

The playful allusions to an imaginary victory of Maria Theresa, Queen of Hungary, over Frederick of Prussia requires some explanation. " Prince Lobbycock " is Lobkowitz, one of her  
her

her generals, and "Mallyboyce" is Maillebois, a French general who was on Frederick's side. "Pitt's diamond," had once belonged to the grandfather of the great Pitt, and was at this time a crown jewel of France; and "the great cistern" may be an allusion to the Basin of Apollo at Versailles, which Gray describes in a letter to West, May 22, 1739.

Horace Walpole contrasts the excesses of his Norfolk neighbours with John Chute's temperate way of living in a letter to him from Houghton dated August 20, 1743.

<sup>1</sup> *Letters of  
Walpole*, ed.  
Cunningham,  
vol. i. p. 264.

"Indeed,<sup>1</sup> my dear Sir, you did not use to be stupid, and until you give me substantial proof that you are so, I shall not believe it: as for your temperate diet and milk bringing about such a metamorphosis, I hold it impossible: I have such lamentable proofs every day before my eyes of the stupefying effects of beef, ale and wine that I have contracted a most religious veneration for your spiritual *nourriture*. Only imagine that I here every day see men who are mountains of roast beef, and only seem just roughly hewn out into the outlines of human form, like the giant rock at Pratolino. I shudder when I see them brandish their knives in act to carve, and look on them as savages that devour one another. I should not stare at all more if yonder Alderman at the lower end of the table were to stick his fork into his jolly neighbour's cheek and cut a brave slice of brown & fat. . . .

"Oh, my dear Sir, don't you find out that nine parts in ten of the world are of no use but to make you wish yourself with that tenth part? I am so far from growing used to mankind by living amongst them, that my natural ferocity and wildness does  
but

but every day grow worse. They tire me, they fatigue me. I don't know what to do with them. I don't know what to say to them. I fling open the windows and fancy I want air ; and when I get by myself I undress myself and seem to have had people in my pockets, in my plaits, and on my shoulders."

Another letter to Chute from Gray is dated "Cambridge" (where he went into residence in the winter of 1742), "October 25" (1743).

"My dear Sir,<sup>1</sup>—What do you chuse I should think of a whole year's silence? Have you absolutely forgot me, or do you not reflect that it is from yourself alone I can have any information concerning you? I do not find myself inclined to forget you: the same regard for your person, the same desire of seeing you again I felt when we parted, still continues with me as fresh as ever. Don't wonder then if, in spite of appearances, I try to flatter myself with the hopes of finding sentiments something of the same kind, however buried, in some dark corner of your heart, perhaps more than half extinguished by long absence and various cares of a different nature. I will not alarm your indolence with a long letter ; my demands are only three, and may be answer'd in as many words: how you do? where you are? when you return? If you chuse to add anything further it will be a work of superer—— I will not write so long a word entire lest I fatigue your delicacy, and you may think it incumbent on you to answer it by another of equal dimensions. You believe me, I hope, with great sincerity, yours

*MS. at the  
Vyne.*

"T. G.

"P.S.

"P.S.—For ought I know you may be in England. My very true compliments (not such as people make to one another) wait upon Mr. Whithed. He will be the most travel'd gentleman in Hampshire."

<sup>1</sup> *Doran's  
Mann and  
Manners in  
Florence,*  
vol. i. p. 208.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 216,  
217.

Many of John Chute's own letters were preserved by his friends. In one to Sir Horace Mann,<sup>1</sup> dated New Year's Day 1745, he writes: "I am resolved my letter shall begin with something new, and therefore date it at this end. I dare say this is the first 1745 you have ever seen in your life. If I were to live till 1800, a new century! Who will be Czar of Muscovy, who King of England in those days?" In a letter to Walpole from Rome, June 26, 1745,<sup>2</sup> he deplored the recent death of his brother Francis. "I should never have believed" (he adds) "that it was possible for me to look with such an eye of indifference as I do upon Rome; all statues appear like those at Hyde Park Corner." By which, it should be explained, he means those in the stonemasons' yards which then stood on the site of Apsley House, and were afterwards removed to the New Road.

<sup>3</sup> *Spence's  
Anecdotes,*  
2nd ed.  
pp. 247, 248.

Francis Chute, whose death is here mentioned, was an eminent lawyer, intimate with the most intellectual men of his day, some of whose conversations with him were inserted by Spence in his well-known "Book of Anecdotes." The most interesting of these relates to Sir Isaac Newton, of whom Francis Chute says:<sup>3</sup> that "though he scarce ever spoke ill of any man, he could hardly avoid showing his contempt for *virtuoso* collectors and antiquarians; and speaking of Lord Pembroke" (the eighth, who purchased many of the Arundel busts for  
Wilton



Wilton House), "he said, 'Let him have but a stone doll and he is satisfied. I can't imagine the utility of such studies; all their pursuits are below Nature.'"

In a letter<sup>1</sup> to Mann, July 26, 1745, Walpole mentions the eagle, mounted on an altar, found in the Baths of Caracalla at Rome, which John Chute advised him to buy. "I don't know what to say to Mr. Chute's eagle: I would fain have it. I can depend on his taste; but would it not be folly to be buying curiosities now? How can I tell that I shall have anything in the world to pay for it by the time it is bought? You may present these reasons to Mr. Chute, and if he laughs at them, why he will buy the eagle for me." The purchase was completed, and the eagle became one of the most valued curiosities in the Strawberry Hill collection.

<sup>1</sup> *Letters of Walpole*, ed. Cunningham, vol. i. p. 379.

In July 1745 Gray wrote John Chute a letter,<sup>2</sup> in which he bids him, "ask Mr. Whithed if he does not expect that his favourite hens, all his dear little pouts, untimely victims of the pot and the spit, will in another world come pipping and gobbling in a melodious voice about him? I know he does: there's nothing so natural. Poor Conti, is he going to be a cherub? I remember here (but he was not ripe then) he had a very promising squeak with him, and that his mouth when open made an exact square. I have never been at Ranelagh Gardens since they were open'd (for what does it signify to me?), but they do not succeed. People see it once or twice, and so they go to Vauxhall. . . . I think we are a reasonable, but by no means a pleasurable people, and, to mend us, we must have a dash of the French and Italian; yet I don't know how, travelling

<sup>2</sup> *MS. at the Lyc.*

does not produce its right effect. I find I am talking ; but you are to attribute it to my having at last found a pen that writes.

“ You are so good, 'tis a shame to scold at you, but you never till now certified me that you were at Casa Ambrosio ; I did not know in what light to consider you. I had an idea, but did not know where to put it, for an idea must have a place *per campeggiar bene*. You were an intaglia unset, a picture without a frame ; but now all is well, tho' I am not very sure yet whether you are above stairs or on the ground floor, but by your mentioning the Terrazzino it must be the latter. Do the frogs of Arno sing as sweetly as they did in my days ? Do you sup *al fresco* ? Have you a mugherino tree and a *Nanny* ? I fear I don't spell this last word right ; pray ask Mr. M ——. Oh dear ! I fear I am a blunderer about hyacinths, for, to be sure, they can't be taken out of the ground till they have done blooming, and they are perhaps just now in flower. That you may know my place, I am just going into the country for one easy fortnight, and then in earnest intend to go to Cambridge to Trinity Hall.”

He then mentions certain books that he is sending to Mann, viz. “ *Etat de la France*,” and the *Life of Mahomet*, by the Comte de Boulainvilliers ; Lord Burleigh's papers ; the *Life of Cicero*, and a letter on Catholic religion by Dr. Middleton ; Philip de Comines ; Warburton on the Miracles, “ a very impudent fellow, his dedications will make you laugh ;” Ludlow's *Memoirs*, “ as unorthodox in politics as the other in religion ;” “ 2 lyttel bookys tocheing Kyng James the fyrst,”

“ very

"very rare ;" "Le Sopha de Crébillon ;" "a collection of Plays, 10 vols. ; 3 parts of 'Marianne' for Mr. Chute."

"And now let me congratulate you as no longer a Min. ; but *far del mondo ! veramente un Ministrone* and King of the Mediterranean. Pray your Majesty give order to your Men of War if they touch at Naples to take care of the Parma Collection, and be sure don't let them bombard Genoa. If you can bully the Pope out of the Apollo Belvedere, well and good, I'm not against it. I'm enchanted with your good Sister the Queen of Hungary ; as old as I am, I could almost fight for her myself. See what it is to be happy ; everybody will fight for those that have no occasion for them. Pray take care to continue so ; but, whether you do or not, I am truly yours

"July, London.

"T. G.

"The Parliament's up, and all the world are made Lords and Secretaries and Commissioners."

Bishop Warburton's dedication of his book on Miracles to Sir Robert Sutton, here alluded to, is a curiosity, occupying twenty-two pages out of a thin small volume, and ending thus : "Your great name can but lift me up to be the more exposed ; while, like young Euryalus in the shining helmet of the divine Messapus, my bright defence but makes me the more obnoxious to danger : safe, had I been contented in my native obscurity."

The "Parma Collection" was a fine gallery of pictures which had belonged to the Dukes of Parma, but which the King of Naples had carried away, as Gray mentions in a letter of December 9, 1739, written to his mother from Bologna.

In

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the Vyne.* In the autumn, 1746, John Chute and Francis Whithed came home, and Gray, impatient to see them, wrote <sup>1</sup> from Cambridge to the former, as follows :—

“ I can find no where one line, one syllable, to tell me you are arrived. I will venture to say there is nobody in England, however nearly connected with you, that has seen you with more real joy and affection than I shall. You are, it seems, gone into the country, whither (had I any reason to think you wished to see me ) I should immediately have follow'd you ; as it is I am returning to Cambridge ; but with intention to come back to town again whenever you do, if you will let me know the time and place.

“ I readily set Mr. Whithed free from all imputation ; he is a fine young personage in a coat all over spangles, just come over from the tour of Europe to take possession and be married, and consequently can't be supposed to think of anything or remember any body : but you—— ! However, I don't altogether clear him. He might have said something to one who remembers him when he was but a pout. Nevertheless I desire my hearty congratulations to him, and say I wish him more spangles and more estates and more wives. Adieu ! my dear Sir.

“ I am ever yours

“ T. GRAY.”

“ London : Oct. [1746].”

A portrait of Francis Whithed at the Vyne by Rosalba shows him much as this letter describes him, “ a fine young personage

personage in a coat all over spangles." The picture is matched by a portrait, also by Rosalba, of Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Nichol, of Southgate, Middlesex, the lady here alluded to, to whom he was engaged to be married.

In the same month, Gray wrote another letter<sup>1</sup> to John Chute (addressed to "Mr. Whitheds at Southwick Park near Fareham in Hampshire"), which brings to memory his own lines "To Adversity":—

"What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know,  
And from her own she learn'd to melt at others' woe."

"My dear Sir,—You have not then forgot me, and I shall see you soon again; it suffices, and there needed no other excuse. I loved you too well not to forgive you without a reason, but I could not but be sorry for myself.

"You are lazy (you say) and listless and gouty and vex'd and perplex'd. I am all that (the gout excepted), and many things more that I hope you never will be: so that what you tell me on that head *est trop flateux pour moi*: our imperfections may at least excuse and perhaps recommend us to one another: methinks I can readily pardon sickness and age and vexation for all the depredations they make within and without, when I think they make us better friends and better men; which I am persuaded is often the case. I am very sure I have seen the best-tempered generous tender young creatures in the world that would have been very glad to be sorry for people they liked, when under any pain, and could not, merely for want of knowing rightly what it was themselves.

" I

"I find Mr. Walpole then made some mention of me to you. Yes, we are together again. It is about a year I believe since he wrote to me to offer it, and there has been (particularly of late) in appearance the same kindness and confidence almost as of old. What were his motives I cannot yet guess; what were mine, you will imagine, and perhaps blame me. However as yet I neither repent nor rejoice over much: but I am pleased. He is full, I assure you, of your panegyric, never any body had half so much wit as Mr. Chute (which is saying everything with him, you know), and Mr. Whithed is the finest young man that ever was imported. I hope to embrace this fine man (if I can), and thank him heartily for being my advocate, tho' in vain; he is a good creature, and I am not sure but I shall be tempted to eat a wing of him with sellery sauce. . . . Heaven keep you all!

"I am, my best Mr. Chute, very faithfully yours,

"T. G.

"Cambr<sup>e</sup>, Oct. 12 [1746], Sunday."

This letter was followed by another addressed to "Mr. Whithed's house in New Bond St."

"Cambridge, Sunday.

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the  
Vyne, never  
before printed.*

"Lustrissimo,<sup>1</sup> — It is doubtless reasonable, that two young foreigners, come into so distant a country to acquaint themselves with strange things, should have some time allowed them to take a view of the King (God bless him), and the Ministry, and the Theatres, and Westminster Abbey, and the lions, and such other curiosities of the capital city. You civilly call them dissipations; but to me they appear employments of a very serious nature, as  
they



they enlarge the mind, give a great insight into the nature and genius of a people, keep the spirits in an agreeable agitation, and (like the true artificial spirit of lavender) amazingly fortify and corroborate the whole nervous system. But as all things sooner or later must pass away, and there is a certain period when (by the rules of proportion) one is to grow weary of every thing; I may hope at length a season will arrive, when you will be tired of forgetting me. 'Tis true you have a long journey to make first, a vast series of sights to pass thro'. Let me see! you are at Lady Brown already. I have set a time, when I may say, 'Oh! he is now got to the Waxwork in Fleet Street: there is nothing more but Cupids Paradise, and the Hermaphrodite from Guinea, and the original Basilisk Dragon, and the Buffalo from Babylon, and the New Chimpanzee, and then I'—— Have a care, you had best, that I come in my turn: you know in whose hands I have deposited my little interests. I shall infallibly appeal to my *best invisible* friend in the country.

"I am glad Castalio has justified himself and me to you. He seemed to me more made for tenderness than horror, and (I have courage again to insist upon it) might make a better player than any now on the stage. I have not alone received (thank you), but almost got through, *Louis Onze*. 'Tis very well, methinks, but nothing particular. What occasioned his expurgation in Paris, I imagine, were certain strokes in defence of the Gallican Church and its liberties. A little contempt cast upon the Popes, and something here and there on the conduct of great princes. There are a few instances of malice against our nation that are very foolish.

" My

"My companion, whom you salute, is (much to my sorrow) only so now and then. He lives 20 miles off at nurse, and is not so meagre as when you first knew him, but of a reasonable plumposity. He shall not fail being here to do the honours, when you make your publick entry. Heigh ho! when will that be, *chi sa?* but *mi lusinga il dolce sogno!* I love Mr. Whithed and wish him all happiness. Farewell, my dear Sir.

"I am, ever yours,

"T. G.

"Commend me kindly to Mr. Walpole."

<sup>1</sup> *Mitford's Gray*, vol. ii. p. 165.

Shortly after writing these letters, Gray joined his friends in London, and in a letter to Wharton of Dec. 11, 1746, says:<sup>1</sup> "I have been in town flaunting about at public places with my two Italianized friends. The world has some attractions still in it to a solitary of six years' standing, and agreeable well meaning people are my peculiar magnet."

<sup>2</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. ii. pp. 96, 135, 183, 300, 444.

Walpole's letters of this period are full of references to John Chute. Thus in a letter to Mann, October 2, 1747, he says: "If I were to say all I think of Mr. Chute's immense honesty, his sense, his wit, his knowledge, and his humanity, you would think I was writing a dedication." "I must tell you"<sup>2</sup> (he writes, December 2, 1748, to Mann) "an admirable *bon mot* of Mr. Chute. Passing by the door of Mrs. Edwards, who died of drams, he saw the motto which the undertakers had placed to her escutcheon, '*Mors janua vitæ*;' he said it ought to have been '*Mors aqua vitæ*.'" And again to Mann, June 15, 1755: "Mr. Chute has found you a very pretty motto; it alludes to the goats

goats in your arms, and not a little to you ; '*per ardua stabilis* : ' all your friends approve it." Again, speaking of their common antiquarian pursuits : " You know " ( he writes to Montagu, September 28, 1749 ) " how out of humour Gray has been about our diverting ourselves with pedigrees. I believe neither Mr. Chute nor I ever contracted a moment's vanity from any of our discoveries, or ever preferred them to anything but brag and whist. Well, Gray has set himself to compute, and has found that there must go a million of ancestors in 20 generations to every body's composition." And writing to Bentley, August 5, 1752, of a visit to Hurstmonceaux, Sussex, he says : " Over the great drawing-room chimney is the coat armour of the first Lennard Lord Dacre, with all his alliances. Mr. Chute was transported, and called cousin with ten thousand quarterings." <sup>1</sup>

Another bond of sympathy between them was a taste for architecture. Thus Walpole wrote to Mann, March 4, 1753 : " Mr. Chute has come to Strawberry to inspect the progress of a Gothic staircase, which is so pretty and so small that I am inclined to wrap it up and send it you in my letter ; " and to Bentley, July 5, 1755, he speaks of the " prettiest house in the world," which John Chute had designed for Lady Mary Churchill ( Walpole's sister ) at Chalfont, Bucks.

Writing to Mann, June 12, 1753,<sup>2</sup> he speaks of a sleeping room at Strawberry Hill, which he constantly reserved for John Chute, and his " college of arms " in the tower.

When John Chute succeeded to the Vyne as heir to his brother Anthony in 1754, he was greeted by Horace Walpole in

<sup>1</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. ii. pp. 324, 446.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 337.

the following letter. It must be mentioned in explanation of some passages in it that Francis Whithed, already mentioned, had died at the Vyne in March 1751, and John Chute endeavoured (thereby giving some offence to his brother Anthony) to bring about a marriage between Margaret Nichol and Horace Walpole's nephew Lord Orford. This, however, fell through, and the lady eventually married James Brydges, Marquis of Carnarvon, afterwards third Duke of Chandos.

" May 21, 1754.

<sup>1</sup> *MS. at the Vyne, never before printed.*

" My dearest Sir,<sup>1</sup>—Don't be surprised if I write you a great deal of incoherent nonsense. The triumph of my joy is so great that I cannot think with any consistence. Unless you could know how absolutely persuaded I was that your brother would disinherit you, you cannot judge of my satisfaction. I am sure the frame-maker could not. When Francesco brought me your letter and told me in Italian the good news, I started up and embraced him and put myself in such an agitation that I believe I shall not get over it without being blooded. I have hurried to Mrs. [Francis] Chute to embrace her too, but was not so lucky as to find her. I am overjoyed you will not come away without leaving her there. I would not trust a cranny of the house into which a will might be thrust in any other hands. Well, it was so unexpected. How kind you were to conceal his illness. I should have lived in agonies of apprehension for the consequence. You are in the right to think I should be overjoyed. Think of the obligations I have to you; remember that in the transports of your grief for Mr. Whithed your first thought was  
for

for me and my family ; recollect the persecutions you suffered on my account ; judge how great and continued my fears were that you might be an essential sufferer from that æra, and then imagine how unmixed my joy must be at deliverance from such fears, how impatient I am to be quite secure that I may crowd into the papers the most exaggerated paragraph of your good fortune that I could desire. . . . My uncle shall read it in every journal. How strange that I should live to be glad that he is alive ; but it is comfortable that he is yet to have this mortification. And Harrison—you don't tell me that you will discard him. I expect an absolute promise of that. I distrust the goodness of your heart, lest it should dispose you to forgiveness. Do you know that I relent so little that I would give much to hear Mr. and Mrs. Atkyns go down to-day with a will in their pockets for your brother to sign, and find him dead and you in possession. *An de ma vie !* Am I in the right to take it for my motto ? Erasmus Shorter ! Henry Pelham ! Anthony Chute ! Where could I have chosen three such other hatchments ? Nay, my dear Sir, even things apparently ill have their good fortune. If you had not been laid up with the gout, you would have returned from the Vine and the Atkyns and Tracys might have been there in your place. I can scarcely contain from divulging my joy till I hear further. I have stifled Mr. Mann with it, and nobody was ever more pleased than to be so stifled. . . . I am going to notify it to Gray and to our poor *cliquette*. It will make his bleak rocks and barren mountains smile. I am going to write to G. Montagu. I am sure he will be truly happy. My only present anxiety after the desire of  
certainty

certainly is lest you should not come to town on Sunday night. Sir George and Lady Lyttelton are engaged to be at Strawberry on Monday and Tuesday, and I cannot bear to lose a minute of seeing you. If it should happen so unluckily that you should not come till Monday, I beg and insist that you will come the next minute to Strawberry. I am really in a fever and you must not wonder at any vehemence in a light-headed man in whose greatest intermissions there is always vehemence enough. Take care that I do not meet with the least drawback or disappointment in the plenitude of my satisfaction. The least that I intend to call you is a fortune of five thousand pounds a year and seventy thousand pounds in money. You shall at least exceed Woolterton. This is for the public; with regard to myself, I don't know that I shall, but if I should grow to love you less you will not be surprized. You know the partiality I have to the afflicted, the disgraced, and the oppressed, and must recollect how many titles to my esteem you will lose when you are rich. Chute of the Vine, when you are courted by Chancellors of the Exchequer for your interest in Hampshire; by a thousand nephew Tracys for your estate, and by my Lady Brown for her daughter. Oh you will grow to wear a slit gouty shoe and a gold-headed cane with a spying glass; you will talk stocks and actions with Sir R. Brown, and be obliged to go to the South Sea House when one wants you to whisk in a comfortable way to Strawberry. You will dine at Farley in a swagging coach with fat mares of your own, and have strong port of a thousand years old got on purpose for you at Hackwood because you will have lent the Duke thirty thousand pounds. Oh you will be insup-  
portable



portable, shan't you? I find I shall detest you. *En attendant*  
I do wish you joy!

"Y<sup>rs</sup> ever,

"H. W.

"P.S.—Pray mind how I direct to you! I would not be so insolent as to frank to you for all the world. When the rich citizens who get out of their coaches backwards used to dine with my father, my mother called them 'rump days.' Take notice I will never dine with you on rump days. I hope your brother won't open this letter.

"2nd P.S.—I always thought Sophy had a good heart, and indeed had no notion that a cat could have a bad one, but I must own that she is shocked to death with envy on my telling her that the first thing you would certainly do would be to give her sister Luna a diamond pompon and a bloodstone *Torey*."

The pleasantry in the second postscript turns upon the relationship of Colbert, Marquis de Torey (nephew of the great Colbert), whose Memoirs had been recently published, to M. Pompon, minister of Louis XIV., with a play on the word *pompon*, meaning an ornament in a cap.

Walpole became now a frequent visitor at the Vyne, and mentions its summer beauty in his letters; he complained, however, of the rough and indifferent roads by which it was then approached. Thus he wrote<sup>1</sup> to Montagu, August 29, 1754: "In October you will find it a little difficult to persuade me to accompany you there on stilts." And to Bentley, January 6,

<sup>1</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. ii. pp. 397, 497; vol. iii. p. 215.

1756: "No post but a dove can come from thence;" and in a letter to John Chute, March 13, 1759, he begs him to leave it lest he should "die of mildew," and calls upon

"Mater, Cyrene mater, quæ gurgitis hujus  
Ima tenes,"

to send him away to London.

<sup>1</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. ii. pp. 401, 443.

In a letter to Bentley, <sup>1</sup> November 3, 1754, Walpole wrote: "I carried down incense and mass books, and we had most Catholic enjoyment of the Chapel. In the evenings, indeed, we did touch a card a little to please George. So much that truly I have scarce an idea left that is not spotted with hearts, spades and diamonds. There is a vote of the Strawberry committee for great embellishments of the Chapel." And again, in a letter to Mann, July 16, 1755, he says: "At the Vine is the most heavenly Chapel in the world; it only wants a few pictures to give it a true Catholic air—we are so conscious of the goodness of our Protestantism that we do not care how things look. If you can pick us up a tolerable Last Supper, or can have one copied tolerably and very cheap, we will say many a mass for the repose of your headaches. . . . The colouring must be very light, for it will hang directly under the window."

<sup>2</sup> *Mann and Manners at Florence*, vol. i. p. 381.

In accordance with this request Mann went with Dr. Cocchi (a learned physician and author at Florence, some of whose observations are to be found in Spence's *Anecdotes*) to look at several pictures, and wrote to Walpole: <sup>2</sup> "I was greatly tempted to steal a piece of chapel furniture from a private oratory, which would answer the end of giving a true Catholic air to our friend's Chapel

Chapel. It was a little tabernacle of about two feet, with folding doors, which always stand open to shew a small Madonna and Child in her arms, surrounded by some angels and saints, all composed, as the man assured me, of martyr's bones pulverised and worked up into a paste." A picture by Ferretti was eventually sent, and is now in the antechapel.

In July 1755 <sup>1</sup> Gray went to the Vyne on a visit, and thence for a Hampshire tour, in which he overtaxed his powers, and from this time to the end of his life, a period of sixteen years, he was a constant sufferer from ill health. On August 14, he wrote <sup>2</sup> to John Chute: "I was to have gone to Strawberry on Monday last, but being ill was obliged to write the day before and excuse myself. I have been ill ever since I came out of Hampshire. I have had *advice*, been bloodied, and taken draughts of salt of wormwood, lemons, tincture of guaiacum, magnesia, and the devil."

Walpole wrote <sup>3</sup> to Chute, September 29, 1755, when war had broken out with France: "A commission has passed the seals to get you some swans; and, as in this age one ought not to despair of anything where robbery is concerned, I have some hopes of succeeding. If you should want any French ships for your water, there are great numbers to be had cheap and small enough."

Walpole suggested numerous alterations at the Vyne, and was impatient that they were not immediately taken in hand. "Chute is so reasonable (he wrote <sup>4</sup> to Bentley, July 5, 1755), and will think of dying and of the gout and of twenty disagreeable things that one must do, that he takes no pleasure

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<sup>1</sup> *Gosse's Life of Gray*, p. 123.

<sup>2</sup> *MS. at the Vyne*.

<sup>3</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. ii. p. 472.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 446.

<sup>1</sup> *MS. Inventory, by Walpole, preserved at the Vyne.*

in planting and future views." The following were some of Horace Walpole's proposals.<sup>1</sup>

"The chapel to have 3 pictures under the windows—viz. the Lord's Supper, Christ in the Garden, and Christ walking on the Sea. The four Evangelists in the long panels on each side; a rich purple and silver altar cloth, with handsome old embossed plate; a brass eagle for a reading desk. The walls above to be painted in a Gothic pattern; and a closet with a screen in the same pattern.

"Out of doors, a semicircular court with a gate like Caius college: a sheep paddock of 30 acres. Two towers to be added. The new walk to be continued across the meadow to Morguison. Opposite to the house a Roman Theatre with an obelisk, two urns, two Sphynxes, cypresses, and cedars. The old garden to be an open grove, the hither wall of the garden to be pulled down and the garden to be hid. A spire upon the barn, cypresses about the summer-house, and the house. Two lanes of flowering shrubs without the garden. The water to be done what one can do with it."

<sup>2</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. iii. p. 100.

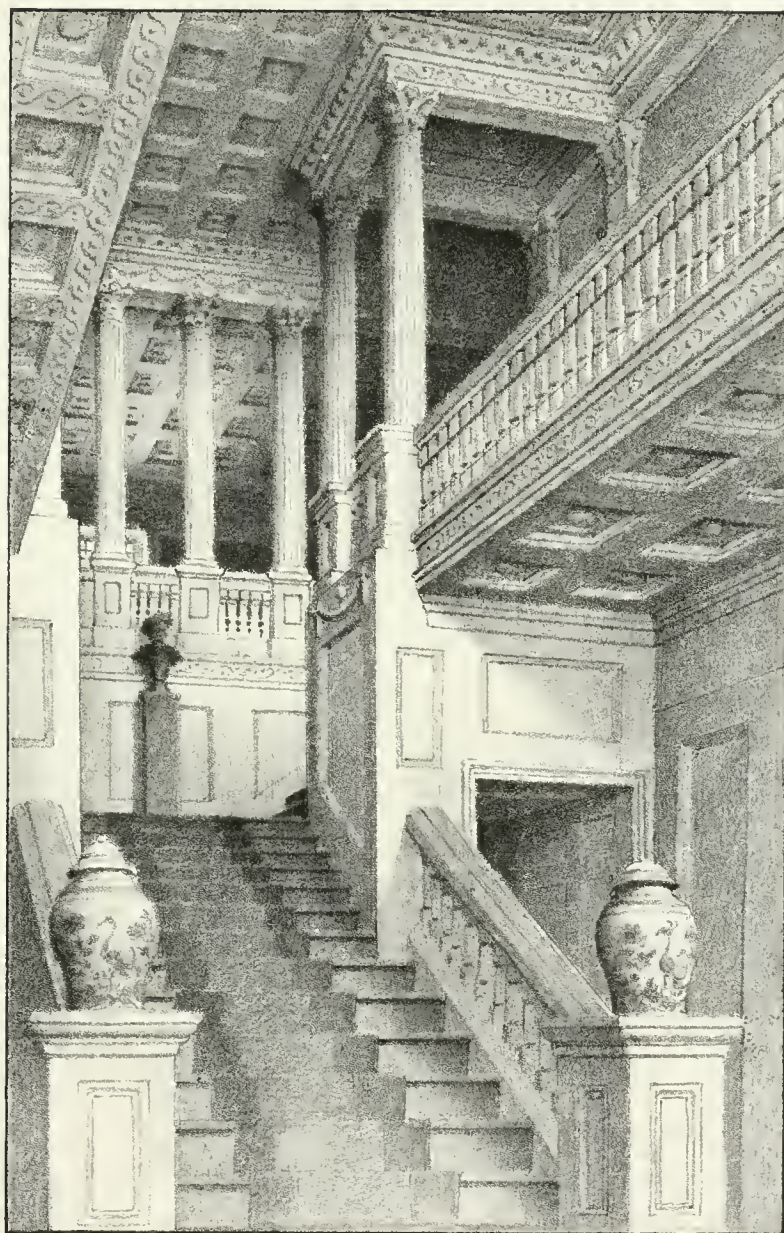
In a letter<sup>2</sup> to Montagu, August 25, 1757, he complains of his friend's hesitation in carrying out his suggestions, and says, "When he could refrain from making the Gothic columbarium for his family which I propose, and Mr. Bentley had drawn so divinely, it is not probable he should do anything else."

John Chute, however, made considerable alterations in the house, and in particular added the staircase (Plate IX.) and the recumbent monument of Chaloner Chute the Speaker (Plate VI., p. 67).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 17.

Walpole wrote<sup>3</sup> to John Chute, June 8, 1756 (alluding to Byng's









Byng's failure at Minorca) : " Pray have a thousand masses said in your divine chapel, *à l'intention* of your poor country. I believe the occasion will disturb the founder of it, and make him shudder in his shroud for the ignominy of his countrymen."

In 1757 Chute was High Sheriff of Hampshire ; and invited Walpole in the summer to visit him at the Wyne. He excused himself, however, on the ground that the Strawberry Hill Printing Press, which he calls "*Officina Arbuteana*," was about to begin work with the printing of two of Gray's odes, the "Progress of Poesy" and the "Bard." He wrote,<sup>1</sup> July 12, 1757 :—

<sup>1</sup> *Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. iii. p. 89.

"It would be very easy to persuade me to a Vine voyage if it were possible. I shall represent my impediments, and then you shall judge. I say nothing of the heat of this magnificent weather ; with the glass yesterday up to three quarters of sultry . . . But hear : my Lady Ailesbury and Miss Rich came hither on Thursday for two or three days, and on Monday next the *Officina Arbuteana* opens in form. The Stationers Company are summoned to meet here on Sunday night—and with what do you think we open ? '*Cedite Romani impressores*':—with nothing under *Graii Carmina*. I found him, Gray, in town last week ; he had brought his two odes to be printed. I snatched them out of Dodsley's hands, and they are to be the first fruits of my press. . . . Now, my dear sir, can I stir ?

'Not ev'n thy virtues, tyrant, can avail !'

. . . Seriously, you must come to us and shall be witness that the first holidays we have, I will return with you."

In 1759, Mrs. Grenville, wife of the Hon. Henry Grenville,

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wished

<sup>1</sup> *Halpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. iii. p. 204.

wished to take John Chute's house in London, and Walpole undertook to negotiate with her. He wrote,<sup>1</sup> however, February 1, 1759, "I don't quite like this commission: If you part with your house in town you will never come hither: at least stow your cellars with drams and gunpowder as full as Guy Fawkes. You will be drowned if you don't blow yourself up. I don't believe that the Vine is within the verge of the rainbow—seriously, it is too damp for you."

<sup>2</sup> *MS. at the Vyne, never before printed.*

A few days later, February 6, Walpole wrote<sup>2</sup> from Arlington Street:—

"Mrs. H. Grenville is a foolish gentlewoman and don't know her own mind. Before it was possible for me to receive your answer she fixed herself in Clifford Street. I find, instead of a physician, it would have been a shorter way to send you a housekeeper, as all La Cour's prescriptions are at last addressed to the confectioner, not to the apothecary.

"I don't approve your changing your arms for those of Chelsea College; nor do I understand what the chief means, I mean the bearing in it. The crest I honour; it was anciently a coat. The late Lord Hervey said his arms should be a cat scratchant, with this motto: 'For my friends where they itch; for my enemies where they are sore.'"

<sup>3</sup> *MS. at the Vyne, never before printed.*

In 1762, Gray was persuaded to stand for the Professorship of Modern History at Cambridge, and he wrote<sup>3</sup> to John Chute as follows in the autumn of that year:—

"My dear Sir,—I was yesterday told that Turner (the Professor of Modern History here) was dead in London. If it be true

true, I conclude it is now too late to begin asking for it ; but we had ( if you remember ) some conversation on that head at Twickenham ; and as you have probably found some opportunity to mention it to Mr. W. since, I would gladly know his thoughts about it—what he can do, he only can tell us ; what he will do, if he can, is with me no question—if he could find a proper channel ; I certainly might ask it with as much or more propriety than anyone in this place. If anything were done, it should be as private as possible ; for if the people who have any sway here could prevent it, I think they would most zealously.

“ I am not sorry for writing you a little interested letter : perhaps it is a stratagem, the only one I have left, to provoke an answer from you, and revive our—correspondence, shall I call it ? There are many particulars relating to you that have long interested me more than twenty matters of this sort, but you have had no regard for my curiosity : and yet it is something that deserves a better name ! I don't so much as know your direction, or that of Mr. Whithed. Adieu.

“ I am ever yours,

“ T. GRAY.”

Though this attempt was not successful, Gray was appointed to the professorship six years later.

The following letters of Horace Walpole exhibit him as an advocate, and John Chute as an example, of total abstinence. The first he wrote<sup>1</sup> to Mann, October 21, 1764, from Strawberry Hill : “ I am writing to you by Mr. Chute's bed-side, who is laid up here with the gout. It is not one of his bad fits, which his

perseverance

<sup>1</sup> *Horace Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. iv. p. 281 ; vol. v. p. 159.

perseverance in water does not suffer to come as often as they wish. He desires me to say a thousand kind things to you. As my gout cannot boast so ancient a descent, I easily keep it in order by the same abstinence. If we had minded good advice from professors of gout, or bad advice from physicians, I do not doubt but he would be in his grave and I half a cripple; but we defy wine and all its works. I believe in it no more than in physic." The second is to Montagu, dated Arlington Street, April 15, 1769: "For your other complaints I revert to my old sermon, temperance. If you will live in a hermitage, methinks it is no great addition to live like a hermit. Look in Sadelers prints: they had beards down to their girdles; and with all their impatience to be in heaven, their roots and water kept them for a century from their wishes. I have lived all my life like an anchorite in London, and within ten miles; shed my skin after the gout, and am as lively as an eel in a week after.

"Mr. Chute, who has drunk no more wine than a fish, grows better every year. He has escaped this winter with only a little pain in one hand. Consider that the physicians recommend wine, and then can you doubt of its being poison?"

In October 1766, Horace Walpole was at Bath ill, and John Chute went to keep him company. "Mr. Chute" (he wrote, October 5, to Montagu<sup>1</sup>) "stays with me till Tuesday; when he is gone I do not know what I shall do, for I cannot play at cribbage by myself; and the alternative is to see my Lady Vane open the ball and glimmer at fifty-four."

<sup>1</sup> *Horace Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. v. p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 326.

Gray died July 30, 1771; and Walpole wrote<sup>2</sup> to Chute August 12, 1771: "I have, I own, been much shocked at reading

Gray's

Gray's death in the papers. 'Tis an hour that makes one forget any subject of complaint, especially towards one with whom I lived in friendship from thirteen years old. As self lies so rooted in self, no doubt the nearness of our ages made the stroke recoil to my own breast; yet to you, who of all men living are the most forgiving, I need not excuse the concern I feel. I fear most men ought to apologise for their want of feeling, instead of palliating the sensation when they have it. I thought that what I had seen of the world had hardened my heart, but I find that it had formed my language, not extinguished my tenderness. In short I am really shocked, nay I am hurt at my own weakness, as I perceive that when I love anybody it is for my life, and I have too much reason to wish that such a disposition may very seldom be put to the trial. You at least are the only person to whom I would venture to make such a confession."

John Chute, who never married, died May 26, 1776, at the Vyne, and was buried in the parish church of Sherborne St. John. How keenly Horace Walpole felt his loss, the following touching letter, which he wrote to Mann,<sup>1</sup> May 27, 1776, will show.

<sup>1</sup> *Horace Walpole's Letters*, ed. Cunningham, vol. vi. p. 340.

"It is" (he says) "a heavy blow, but such strokes reconcile one to parting with this pretty vision, life; what is it, when one has no longer those to whom one speaks as confidentially as to one's own soul? Old friends are the great blessing of one's latter years: half a word conveys one's meaning. They have memory of the same events, and have the same mode of thinking.

"Mr. Chute and I agreed invariably in our principles; he  
was

was my counsel in my affairs, was my oracle in taste, the standard to whom I submitted my trifles, and the genius that presided over poor Strawberry. His sense decided me in everything; his wit and quickness illuminated everything. I saw him oftener than any man; to him in any difficulty I had recourse; and him I loved to have here, as our friendship was so entire, and we knew one another so entirely, that he alone was never the least constraint to me. We passed many hours together without saying a syllable to each other, for we were both above ceremony. I left him without excusing myself, read or wrote before him, as if he were not present. Alas! alas! and how self presides even in our grief. I am lamenting myself, not him! No, I am lamenting my other self. Half is gone, the other remains solitary. Age and sense will make me bear my afflictions with submission and composure;—but for ever—that little *for ever* that remains, I shall miss him. My first thought will always be, ‘I will go talk to Mr. Chute on this;’ the second, ‘Alas! I cannot;’ and therefore judge how my life is poisoned! I shall only seem to be staying behind one who is set out a little before me.” He then describes his friend’s last hours, and continues: “A charming death for him, dearest friend! and why should I lament? His eyes, always shortsighted, were grown dimmer; his hearing was grown imperfect, his hands were all chalk stones and of little use, his feet very lame. Yet how not lament? The vigour of his mind was as strong as ever; his power of reasoning clear as demonstration; his rapid wit astonishing as at forty, about which time you and I knew him first. Even the impetuosity of his temper was

was



was not abated, and all his humane virtues had but increased with his age: he was grown sick of the world; saw very very few persons; submitted with unparalleled patience to all his sufferings; and in five and thirty years, I never once saw or heard him complain of them, nor, passionate as he was, knew him fretful. His impatience seemed to proceed from his vast sense, not from his temper: he saw everything so clearly and immediately that he could not bear a momentary contradiction from folly or defective reasoning. Sudden contempt broke out, particularly on politics, which, having been fixed in him by a most sensible father and nurtured by deep reflection, were rooted in his inmost soul. His truth, integrity, honour, spirit, and abhorrence of all deceit confirmed his contempt; and even I, who am pretty warm and steady, was often forced to break off politics with him, so impossible was it to be zealous enough to content him when I most agreed with him. Nay, if I disputed with him, I learnt something from him, and always saw truth in a stronger and more summary light.

“His possession of the quintessence of argument reduced it at once into axioms, and the clearness of his ideas struck out flashes of the brightest wit. He saw so suddenly and so far, that, as Mr. Bentley said of him long ago, his wit strikes the more you analyse it, and more than at first hearing; he jumps over two or three intermediate ideas, and couples the first with the third or fourth. Don't wonder I pour out my heart to you: you know how faithfully true is all I say of him. My loss is most irreparable. To me he was the most faithful and secure of friends and a most delightful companion.”

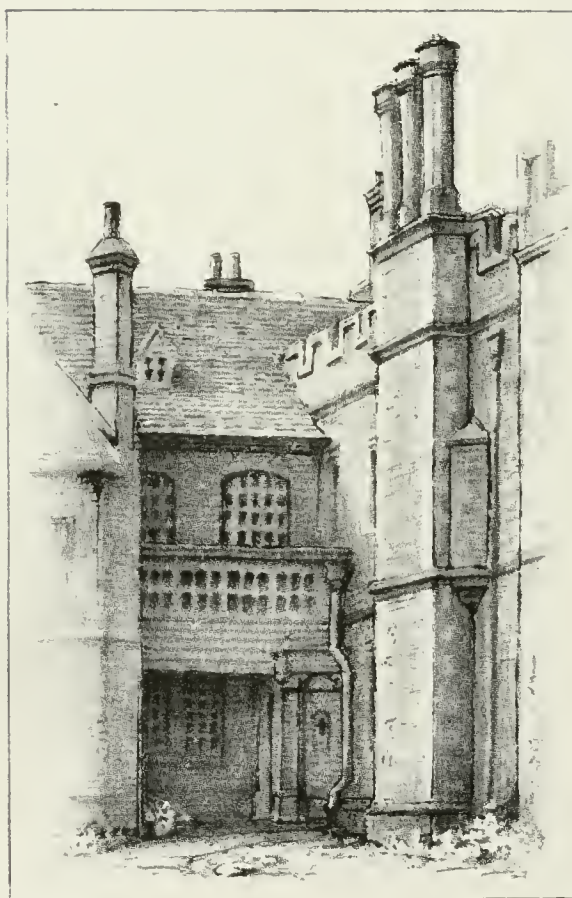
John

John Chute was the last surviving child of Edward Chute of the Vyne, and with him the male line of the family came to an end. It will be remembered that Edward Chute had a younger brother, Thomas,<sup>1</sup> to whom great kindness was shown by his relative the Lord Keeper North, and who married Elizabeth, heiress of Nicholas Rivett, of Brandeston, Suffolk. His children all died without issue excepting Elizabeth, who married Thomas Lobb of Pickenham, Norfolk; and to her son Thomas, who was born September 19, 1721, and took the name of Chute in addition to that of Lobb, John Chute, his cousin, bequeathed the Vyne estate by will dated November 4, 1774. Thomas Lobb Chute married Ann Rachael, only daughter of William Wiggett, Mayor of Norwich, May 1, 1753, and owned the Vyne from 1776 until 1790, when he died, and was buried at Pickenham.

There are portraits at the Vyne of Anthony, Francis, and John Chute, and of Ann and Mary their sisters; also of Thomas Chute and Elizabeth his wife, and Thomas Lennard and Elizabeth, their children; also of Thomas Lobb, and his son Thomas Lobb Chute.







X



CHAP. VI      *Mr W<sup>m</sup> Chute &  
the Vine Hounds.*

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**W**ILLIAM JOHN, eldest son of Thomas Lobb Chute, and Ann Rachael his wife, was born May 24, 1757. Having been educated at Harrow and Clare Hall, Cambridge, he succeeded in 1790 to the Vyne, and in the same year entered Parliament as member for Hampshire, and began to keep that pack of foxhounds which he supported at his own expense until his death in 1824. In his time they were commonly called Mr. Chute's hounds, though the letters V.H., together with a vine leaf and tendril engraved upon his hunt button, as shown in the design at the head of this chapter, show that the name of the Vine Hunt was already in use.

The kennels, now pulled down, were approached through the picturesque kitchen or Chapel court (Plate X.). Over the kennel door was the motto *Multum in parvo*, in allusion to the

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character

character of the hounds, which were small though strong, as Homer says,

“Τυδεύς τοι μικρὸς μὲν ἔην ἑίμαις, ἀλλὰ μαχητής,”

and in further allusion to the establishment generally, which was unpretentious but effective.

The country which he hunted extended from the chalk downs near Winchester to the south, as far as the river Kennet on the north, and all of this country, including Silchester, Aldermaston, and Sulhamstead, still belongs to the Vine Hunt.

The stables still exist in which the hunters, neither so numerous nor so fast as a modern establishment would require, were kept. During the summer months they were turned out day and night in the pasture between the house and the water.

A picture of “New Forest Jasper,” a fine hound belonging to Lord Egremont, and one of the sires of the pack, used to hang in the hounds’ lodging room, and is still at the Vyne. William Chute used to say<sup>1</sup> that, “as great families have the portrait of their distinguished ancestor, the judge or the general or the statesman, in their rooms, he did not see why the dogs should not have their family picture also.” At the back of this picture are the lines written by himself,

“*Hic bene apud memores veteris stat gloria gentis,  
Hinc plus quam solito robore vulpes eget.*”

Which may be turned thus:—

“Here see the glory of an ancient breed,  
Which urges foxes to their utmost speed.”

*Ibid.* p. 51.

“The hounds<sup>2</sup> usually hunted five times in a fortnight, and were

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections of the Vyne Hunt, by the Rev. James Edward Austen Leigh, 1865 (unpublished)* p. 47.



were never advertised ; even those who hunted with them could not always learn the next day's meet till late in the afternoon. It depended upon the work done and the number of hounds cut by flints, whether they would hunt twice or three times in the week, and whether on the hills or in the vale."

"Half-crowns<sup>1</sup> were collected for the men whenever a fox was killed after a fair run. The men wore round hats and long scarlet coats, which would lap over and defend their knees against wet or cold. The huntsman carried a small twisted bugle" (as represented in the design at the head of this chapter) "slung over his shoulder by a strap ; a more melodious instrument, but less convenient than the straight horn usually carried at the saddle bow."

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections of the Vine Hunt*, p. 52.

Among those who hunted most regularly with the pack were Thomas Chute, William Chute's brother ; Colonel Beach, father of William Beach, of Oakley Hall, the present master of the Vine hounds ; the brothers William and John Portal of Laverstoke and Freefolk, Thomas Luttrell Selater of Hoddington, Sir Richard Rycroft from Manydown, Lovelace Bigg Wither of Tangier, Stephen Terry, Henry Pole of Wolverton, Edward St. John from Ashe Park, and William Wickham of Bullington. The first Duke of Wellington, after he purchased Stratfieldsaye in 1817, became an active member of the hunt. The following letter from him to William Chute<sup>2</sup> will be of interest.

<sup>2</sup> *Preserved at the Vyne.*

"Stratfieldsaye : March 23, 1820.

"My dear Sir,—I went out this morning to meet your hounds, having ordered my horses to Clarken Green, as I had settled  
with

with your huntsman. I went on as far as Déan, but could not find my groom, and I then returned to Clarken Green, thinking it probable that he had gone to the covert side. From Clarken Green I went to Ebbworth, and not finding or hearing anything of you or my horses, I have returned home. I regret this exceedingly, particularly as I feel you will have waited for me. I shall be much obliged if you will let me know on what days and at what places you will go out next week.

“Ever yours most faithfully,

“WELLINGTON.”

A picture of a meet of the Vine hounds, in which the Duke of Wellington appears as a principal figure, was painted in 1843, when Mr. Fellowes was master.

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections  
of the Vine  
Hunt*, p. 70.

Of William Chute himself, his friend Mr. Austen Leigh, late Vicar of Bray, gives<sup>1</sup> an animated description, which brings him before our eyes as in a picture. “I wish,” he writes, “I could make others see him as I can fancy that I see him myself, trotting up to the meet at Freefolk Wood or St. John’s, sitting rather loose on his horse, and his clothes rather loose upon him, the scarlet coat flapping open, a little whitened at the collar by the contact of his hair powder and the friction of his pigtail; the frill of his shirt above, and his gold watch-chain and seal below, both rather prominent; the short knee-breeches scarcely meeting the boot tops. See! he rides up, probably with some original amusing remark, at any rate with a cheerful greeting to his friends, a nod and a kindly word to the farmer, and some laughing notice of the schoolboy on his pony

pony. Or I could give quite a different picture of him in his parish church, standing upright, tilting his heavy folio Prayer-book on the edge of his high pew, so that he had to look up rather than down on it. There he stands, like Sir Roger de Coverley, giving out the responses in an audible voice, with an occasional glance to see what tenants were at church and what schoolboys are misbehaving; and, I am sorry to add, sometimes, when the rustic psalmody began its discord in the gallery, with a humour, which even church could not restrain, making some significant gesture to provoke a smile from me and other young persons in the pew.

"He was<sup>1</sup> exceedingly temperate in his habits; few men, who take such strong exercise, eat or drink so sparingly as he did. A few slices of thin bread and butter, and sometimes a small sausage roll, with a cup of green tea, was the breakfast on which he usually set forth on his long day's work, but the little which he took must be of the very best quality. He had more than a woman's delicacy of taste, and was even fanciful in his eating and drinking. He would send away his plate in disgust, if he was told that the rabbit he was eating was a home-bred and not a wild one. He disliked the idea of bread and butter spread by a man; the rule at the Vyne was that this operation should be performed by one of the maid servants. His few glasses of wine must be of the best old port; for claret he had a great contempt, and I have heard him declare that his butler old Bush could make as good stuff as that out of the washings of his port wine glasses.

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections of the Vine Hunt*, p. 73.

"Some of his most characteristic oddities<sup>2</sup> came out in his manner

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* p. 76.

manner of quizzing his old bailiff Coxe, who managed the home farm; he took an actual pleasure in this man's failures, and was most especially delighted whenever the hay intended for farm purposes was injured, after he had secured all that he required for his hunters in good condition. I once expressed to him " (continues Mr. Austen Leigh in his "Recollections") "my concern at having seen his hay out in the rain. 'My hay!' said he; 'what do you mean? I've no hay out; I got all mine up famously last week.' I mentioned to him the name of the field in which I had observed it. 'Oh pooh!' said he, 'that was not my hay, that was Coxe's. Silly fellow, it serves him right, and I am glad of it; he might have got it all up a week ago if he had had any sense.'

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections  
of the Vine  
Hunt*, p. 74.

"Sir John Cope of Bramshill,<sup>1</sup> who professed Radical politics, once wrote to him that he had a litter of five dogs in that year's entry, whose names all had pretty much the same meaning, for they were Placeman, Parson, Pensioner, Pilferer, and Plunderer; but the Tory Squire with ready invention retorted that he could show him a litter of which the five names were equally synonymous; being Radical, Rebel, Regicide, Ruffian, and Rascal.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 75.

"In a long run from St. John's to Chawton Park<sup>2</sup> he got into trouble at the fence out of Bradley Wood. He slipped as he was leading his horse, and the animal trod heavily on his thigh. Those who were near were in great alarm, but he got up with no other injury than a bruise. Mr. John Portal expressed his delight that it was no worse, saying, 'I thought we were going to lose our member.' 'Did you?' he replied, rubbing the injured part. 'Well, I can tell you I thought I was going to lose mine.'"

He

He was first elected member for the county of Hants together with Sir William Heathcote of Hursley, in 1790, as a supporter of the younger Pitt. Lord John Russell and Mr. Clarke Jervoise of Idsworth were their opponents. On Pitt's death, January 23, 1806, Fox formed the Coalition Ministry which was nicknamed "All the Talents;" and when he died, September 7 in the same year, there was a dissolution, and William Chute lost his seat. The following extract from Lord Palmerston's journal<sup>1</sup> gives some curious incidents relating to this election: "With regard to the county of Hants, the old members were Sir William Heathcote and Mr. Chute, both for many years attached to the policy of Pitt; neither, however, had at any time taken a violent part in public affairs. Sir William Heathcote, a quiet country gentleman, lived like a recluse at Hursley; and Chute, an hospitable squire, preferred entertaining his friends at the Vine to mixing with much zeal in Parliamentary disputes. The latter, however, had in the course of last session voted three times in opposition to ministers, on the American Intercourse Bill, on the repeal of the Defences Bill, and on Windham's Plans" (the first involving the privileges of English ships, and the two latter the reform of the army). "This was an offence not easily to be forgiven, and it was determined to turn him out. Accordingly, in the month of September, Lord Temple rode to Hursley and said to Sir W. Heathcote that, Mr. Chute having gone into systematic opposition to ministers, it could not be expected that they should give him their assistance; but that, as Sir William had not attended last session, if he would declare himself favourably disposed towards

<sup>1</sup> *Life of Lord Palmerston,*  
by Lord  
Dailing, vol. i.  
p. 56.

towards Government, they would vote for him; but that, if he and his friends intended to make common cause with Mr. Chute, Government must set up two candidates instead of one. This communication Lord Temple gave to understand came from Lord Grenville. Had Sir W. Heathcote acted with becoming spirit, he would have immediately taken down what Lord Temple had said, desired him to read it, and then ordered the servant to show him the door. However, he answered that with regard to himself he would never pledge himself to support any administration, not even that of Pitt, were he alive; and as to his friends he must consult them before he could give any answer with regard to them. He then, when Lord Temple had gone, wrote down the substance of what had passed, and laid it before the County Club. The indignation excited by this attempt to dictate to the county members was universal, and it was immediately determined to support the sitting members, and in them the freedom and independence of the county. Two candidates, however, were now set up by ministers: one being Mr. Herbert, a young man, third son of Lord Carnarvon, and in no way connected with the county." (Mr. Thomas Thistlethwayte, of Southwick Park, was the other.) "Hereupon Sir W. Heathcote, alarmed at the trouble and expense of a contest, declined standing, upon pretence that his age and infirmities would not allow him to attend Parliament any longer; and though Sir H. St. John Mildmay, after hesitating ten days, was prevailed upon to stand in conjunction with Chute, the delay caused by these arrangements gave the ministerial candidates a fortnight's start in their canvass, and this, and the great mass of voters in  
Portsmouth



Portsmouth at the command of the Government, decided the fate of the contest."

The following squib was issued at this election, and it so happens that all the allusions in it are explained by the extract from Lord Palmerston's diary above quoted.

"OCCURRENCES IN HAMPSHIRE.

*A Fable.*

"In Hampshire once, some years ago,  
Upon a pleasant *Heath*,  
Close by a *Pit* a *Cot* arose ;  
A *vine* grew underneath.

A stately *Temple* that stood near  
Envied their happy fate,  
And from the *cot* with art essayed  
To separate its mate.

The *cot*, alas ! was doomed to fall,  
The *vine* had taken root ;  
Full sixteen years it flourished fair  
And bore the best of fruit.

An *apple* tree \* then quick sprung up,  
A *thistle* rose to boot ;  
Their utmost strength united tried  
To pluck it by the root.

And fruitless their attempts shall prove,  
And all their efforts vain,  
For if we but a *Mild May* have,  
Our *vine* shall thrive again."

\* *A little Herbert, a kind of apple tree well known in Gloucestershire.*

Though defeated on this occasion, William Chute was elected again six months later in 1807, when a dissolution took place on the formation of the Portland Ministry, and he supported this and the succeeding ministries of Mr. Perceval (with whom he had been intimate at Harrow) and Lord Liverpool until the death of George III. in 1820, when he retired from Parliament.

<sup>1</sup> *Recollections  
of the Vyne  
Hunt*, p. 72.

He married, in 1793, Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua Smith, of Stoke Park, Wilts, member for Devizes; "a lady<sup>1</sup> of rare excellence, whose good deeds were countless, though the only one displayed to the world was the spire which she added to the parish church of Sherborne St. John."

<sup>2</sup> *Lord  
Brabourne.  
Letters of Jane  
Austen*, 1884.

Incidental notices<sup>2</sup> of him and his brother Thomas may be found in the earlier letters of Miss Austen, the novelist, who lived in the neighbourhood, at Steventon Rectory.

William Chute died without issue December 13, 1824, and was buried in the Church of Sherborne St. John. He left the Vyne estate to his brother, Thomas Vere Chute, who was born March 2, 1772, and, dying unmarried, January 22, 1827, was buried at Pickenham, Norfolk.

William and Thomas Chute had but one brother and three sisters who survived infancy, Chaloner, Elizabeth, Mary, and Ann Rachael: of these Chaloner had died unmarried in 1790; Elizabeth, who lived at the Manor House, Church Oakley, had died in 1805, unmarried; and Mary, who married Mr. Wither Bramston of Hall Place (now Oakley Hall) had also died without issue in 1822. Ann Rachael, married to Sir William Hicks, of Witcombe Park, Gloucestershire, was still living; and to her only child, Ann Rachael, her uncles would  
have

have probably left the Vyne estate, had she not married Sir Lambert Cromie, an Irish baronet, against their wishes.

Both William and Thomas Chute were on terms of great intimacy at college and in later life with James Wiggett, rector of Crudwell in Wiltshire, the first cousin of their mother, Ann Rachael Wiggett, and having no nearer relation to whom they wished to bequeath the Vyne, they determined to leave it to his second son, William Lyde Wiggett, godson of William Chute. This intention was accordingly carried out by Thomas Vere Chute, in his will, dated July 23, 1826.

The Wiggetts were a family long settled at Guist, co. Norfolk; their descent has been traced<sup>1</sup> from Wigot de St. Denis, a companion of the Conqueror, from whom the Bigods, the famous Earls of Norfolk, also traced their name and descent. One branch of the family assumed the name and arms of Bulwer, from whom the present Bulwers of Heydon are descended.

<sup>1</sup> *The Norman People*, by William Palmer: tit. "Lytton Bulwer."

William Lyde Wiggett was educated at Winchester and at University College, Oxford (where he took his degree with classical honours in 1821), and subsequently studied for the bar at the Middle Temple. On succeeding to the Vyne estate in 1827, he assumed the name and arms of Chute, as directed by Thomas Vere Chute's will. He became Member of Parliament for West Norfolk in 1837, as owner of Pickenham Hall in that county; and resigned his seat in 1847, having in the meantime sold his Norfolk estate. He lived at the Vyne from the death of Elizabeth, widow of William Chute, in 1842, until his own death, July 6, 1879. He married, 1837, Martha, second daughter of Theophilus Buckworth, of Cockley-Cley Hall, Norfolk.

William

William Wiggett Chute enriched the Vyne with pictures, statuary, and furniture, and added several bedrooms, the sleeping accommodation, which was anciently provided by beds in the present reception rooms,<sup>1</sup> being no longer in proportion to the size of the house. He greatly improved the estate, the woodland part of which had been previously divided by deep oak or hazel rows into numerous small enclosures, while the upper or field lands were also held in small plots of about an acre apiece, divided by grassy banks or balks, and occupied on a curious half-yearly tenure, the whole of the fields being open to all the various occupiers in common immediately after the crops were gathered in. There are some old maps in the house dated 1816-17, which show this intricate subdivision of the land. The improvements which he effected are told in the Journals<sup>2</sup> of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The roads had been little better than drift ways, impassable beyond the Vyne except by carts and waggons, so that it was a common saying that "the Vyne was the last place upon the earth, and Beaurepaire was beyond it;" and Horace Walpole humourously said<sup>3</sup> that "the Vyne must be approached upon stilts," and that "no post but a dove could come from it." All this was altered for the better, and the Rev. James Edward Austen Leigh, whose hunting reminiscences have been already quoted, and who was intimately acquainted with the Vyne estate, wrote a letter to William Wiggett Chute, August 26, 1874, in which he spoke of his improvements, "the enclosure of the common fields, the construction of roads, which opened up Bramley and many other parts of the world, the draining and the letting in  
air

<sup>1</sup> P. 50, *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. xlviii.,  
*Farming in  
Hampshire*.

<sup>3</sup> P. 109, 110,  
*ante*.

air and sunshine to the dark places of the earth." "Of all the improvements," he adds, "which I have witnessed in a long life, during which improvement has been general, I know of none to equal those which you have effected."

Chaloner William Chute, eldest son of William Wiggett Chute, succeeded him in 1879. He was born August 1, 1838, and was educated at Eton and at Balliol College, Oxford; gained the Ireland University Scholarship in 1860; took his degree with first class classical honours in 1861; and subsequently became a fellow of Magdalen College. He was called to the bar at the Middle Temple, June 1865.

He married, April 6, 1875, Eleanor, daughter of Wyndham Portal, of Malshanger, Hants. The Portal family are of French extraction, so that this alliance was in happy accordance with the wish expressed by Gray in his letter<sup>1</sup> to John Chute dated July 1745. The family originally<sup>2</sup> settled in Languedoc, and during the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, many members of it held the highest office, (that of Capitoul), in the city of Toulouse. Their arms are thus described<sup>3</sup> in French

<sup>1</sup> P. 97, *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> See Smiles's *Huguenots*, 1867.

<sup>3</sup> *Etat présent de la Noblesse Française*, 1873.



heraldry: "D'Argent, au lion rampant de sable, au chef d'azur chargé de six étoiles d'or posées 3 et 3." They are frequently mentioned among the most zealous of the Huguenot leaders of their time, and they suffered much for their faith in the seventeenth century. The great-great-

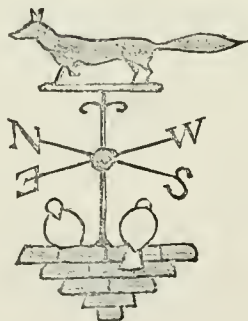
grandfather of Wyndham Portal of Malshanger was Jean François de Portal, who was one of the victims of the persecution which followed the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes,

1685, and being obliged to fly from France, narrowly escaped with his life. His children were concealed in an oven by a faithful nurse, while the search in their father's house was carried on. After the departure of the soldiers they were conveyed to the sea coast, and, hidden in empty wine casks, were placed on board a fishing vessel, in which they reached the hospitable shores of England.<sup>1</sup> One of them, Henri, established himself in Hampshire, and from him are descended the Portal family in that county.

<sup>1</sup> *Smiles's  
Huguenots.*

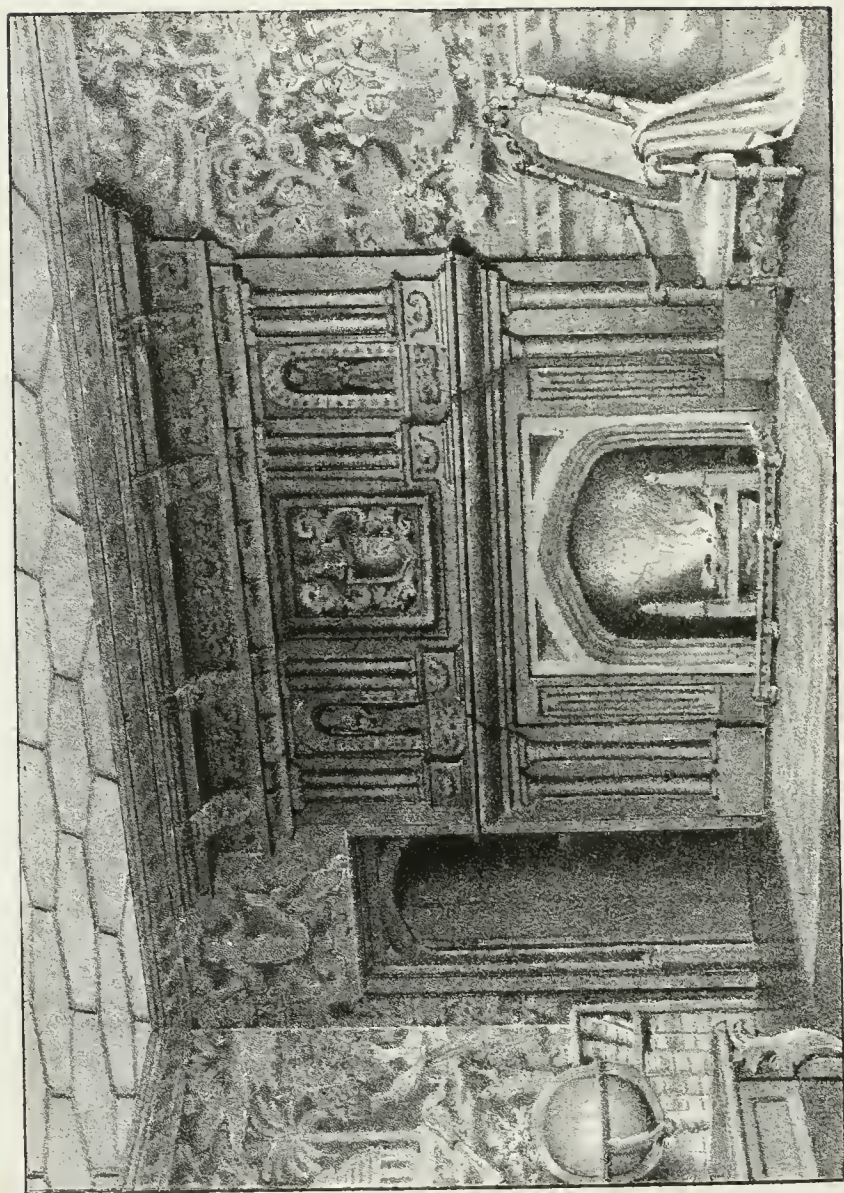
This concludes the varied story of the successive owners of the Vyne. The next chapter will contain a description of the house in its present state, and of the many memorials of past ages which are treasured within its walls.

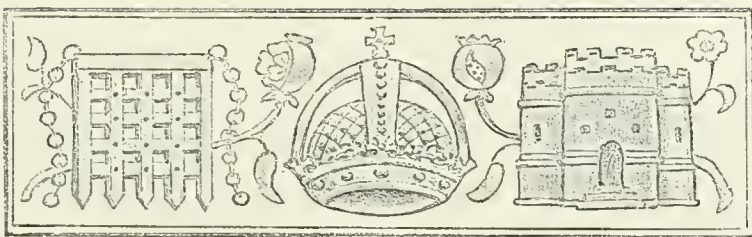
There are portraits at the Vyne of the brothers William and Thomas Vere Chute ; also of William Lyde Wiggett Chute and his wife Martha, with their son Chaloner.











## CHAP. VII *Description of the House.*

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THE words used by Professor Freeman<sup>1</sup> of the ancient house of Cowdray in Sussex—built about 1520—may justly be applied to the Vyne, which is of the same or of a somewhat earlier date. (The interior of the room<sup>2</sup> occupied by Queen Anne Boleyn is shown in Plate XI.) “It belonged,” he says, “to that happy moment of our national art when purely domestic architecture was at its height, and the notion of the great house, as something distinct from the castle, had been brought to perfection. The architecture was still purely English: it did not yet Italianise. Both the actual style and the arrangements of the building are exactly at the point which is best suited for domestic work. There are no breaks, no projections, no odd little bits put in—not because they serve any practical end, but because the architect was throughout haunted by the notion, ‘I must make something picturesque.’ The whole house and every part of it is meant

to

<sup>1</sup> *English Towns and Districts*, pp. 367, 369.

<sup>2</sup> P. 161, *post.*

to serve its own purpose. Each part does serve its own purpose, and the reward of building rationally and straightforwardly is the creation of a magnificent and harmonious whole."

The building of the Vyne was begun by William first Lord Sandys, in the later years of Henry VII., and completed early in the reign of Henry VIII. The carved wainscoting of the gallery was probably finished between 1515, when Wolsey was made Cardinal, and 1523, when Katharine of Arragon was divorced, for the panels include the arms of the one as Cardinal and of the other as Queen.

The house (Plate V. p. 29) is of red brick, with the well-known Tudor diaper of a darker colour. The string-courses, coigns, dressings, and battlements are of stone. The windows were originally mullioned, and several still exist in that state, the remainder having been altered to sashes in the seventeenth century. Some of the walls are of remarkable solidity, the central wall, dividing the rooms on the north from those on the south, being six feet in thickness.

The dimensions of the house are 220 feet in length by 50 feet in breadth, with a wing at each end extending southwards. As originally built by Lord Sandys, it was considerably larger than at present, and had a "fair base court,"<sup>1</sup> or *Basse Court*, forming a north quadrangle extending as far as the water 250 feet distant. This was pulled down in 1654.

<sup>1</sup> *Leland, Itin.* iv. pt. i. fol. 10, 11.

<sup>2</sup> P. 50, *ante*.

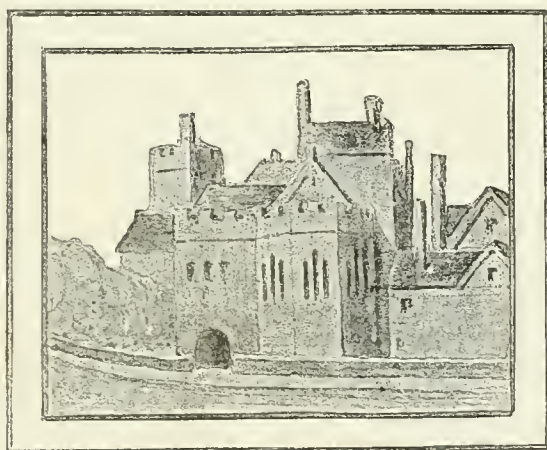
The Inventory<sup>2</sup> of 1541 mentions among the rooms in the "Base Court," two "Yeomans Chambers," each containing twelve beds, a "Schoolmasters chamber," an "Armoury," and a "Chamber at the bridge foot."

At



At Mottisfont Abbey, Hants, the home to which the Sandys family retired after selling the Vyne, is a picture supposed to represent Colonel Henry Sandys<sup>1</sup> (who died 1644), which shows in the background the Vyne as it existed in his time, with buildings running from the chapel towards the water. The accompanying sketch is taken from this old picture.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 65, *an c.*



The appearance of the house was much altered in 1654 by Chaloner Chute the Speaker, who removed the Base Court, built the Grecian Portico, and substituted sashes,<sup>2</sup> (which were not generally introduced into England from Holland before 1688), for the mullions of the windows. He employed as his architect John Webb,<sup>3</sup> a pupil and nephew-in-law of Inigo Jones. The agreement with the builder for these works, dated March 4, 1654, has been preserved, and includes the following items:—

<sup>2</sup> *Topographer* (1786), vol. i. p. 58.

<sup>3</sup> *Walpole's Anecdotes of Printing*, vol. iii. p. 93.

T

“For

"For taking down the old windows and setting up the new, cut into square heads,	£ 0 16s. 0d. each.
"For material, workmanship, and setting of the pillar capitals of the portico in Burford stone,	£ 13 0s. 0d. each.
"For the pillar bases in Portland stone,	£ 5 0s. 0d. each.
"For the Pilaster bases,	£ 4 0s. 0d. each.
"For the Frontispiece over the Portico, with Chaloner Chute's arms,	£ 3 0s. 0d."

The stack pipes marked E<sup>C</sup>K (for Edward and Katharine Chute), and an ornamental lead cistern marked E. K. now standing near the front entrance, bear the date 1696.

Among the outbuildings, the Brewhouse and Stables are interesting examples of ancient brickwork. The kitchen court (Plate X., p. 121) is especially picturesque. The Summer-house (Plate VIII., p. 85) in the garden, excellent alike in proportion and colour, was designed by John Webb for Chaloner Chute the Speaker. It has now for a long time been used as a pigeon house.

The piece of water on the north-west—formerly divided into four successive fish ponds, which were perhaps originally the *vivaria* of the Roman villa—is fed by a stream which flows into

"The Loddon slow with verdant alders crowned."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Pope's Windsor Castle*, l. 342.

There was a bowling green with a formal garden and yew hedges on the opposite side of the water in the last century, as is shown in a small picture, preserved in the house, of a little dog, "Chalons," which belonged to Anthony Chute in 1748.

The main entrance is on the south, and is guarded by two eagles, presented by Horace Walpole about 1745.<sup>2</sup>

The



The beautiful classic STAIRCASE, with its Corinthian columns (Plate IX., p. 112), was erected about 1765. Horace Walpole speaks of it in his "Anecdotes of Painting"<sup>1</sup> (1770) as "the theatric staircase designed and just erected by John Chute;" and in a manuscript description<sup>2</sup> of the house (1793) he speaks of him as "an able geometrician and an exquisite architect, of the purest taste, both in the Grecian and Gothic styles," and says that he "erected from his own designs the beautiful scenery of the staircase with its two vestibules."

<sup>1</sup> Vol. iv.  
p. 151.

<sup>2</sup> MS. preserved  
at the Vyne.

The Hall contains four marble figures representing the Seasons; also a portrait of Henry VIII. by Holbein, and one of Charles Chute, father of the Speaker. Many fine engravings by Albert Durer, Marc Antonio, and other masters, which were collected by John Chute, are here and elsewhere in the house.

It appears from the Inventory of 1541 that there was originally a dining hall on the right of the front entrance for retainers, the Dining Chamber being reserved for Lord Sandys himself and his more distinguished guests.

On the left of the front hall is the PRINT ROOM, so called from the prints upon its walls, which were placed there about 1815; and this leads into a small oak-panelled room called the STRAWBERRY PARLOUR, from its having been reserved for the use of Horace Walpole when he was a frequent guest at the Vyne. There is an arched recess of stone in the south wall which seems to have been originally a doorway. A good iron fireback, representing a phoenix, with the initials I.M., bears the date 1650. These two rooms were furnished with beds in 1541, and were called "the Base Chambers."

Beyond

Beyond these is the STONE GALLERY (82 feet long), originally used as a sleeping place for the retainers of visitors, and afterwards as an orangery. Over the fireplace is a medallion bust of the Roman Emperor Probus (who introduced vines<sup>1</sup> into Britain), with a rich arabesque border—similar to the well-known terra cotta medallions of the Roman emperors at Hampton Court.

<sup>1</sup> P. 6, *ante*.

In this gallery are four full-length portraits:—

1. George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, favourite of James I., assassinated at Portsmouth August 23, 1628.

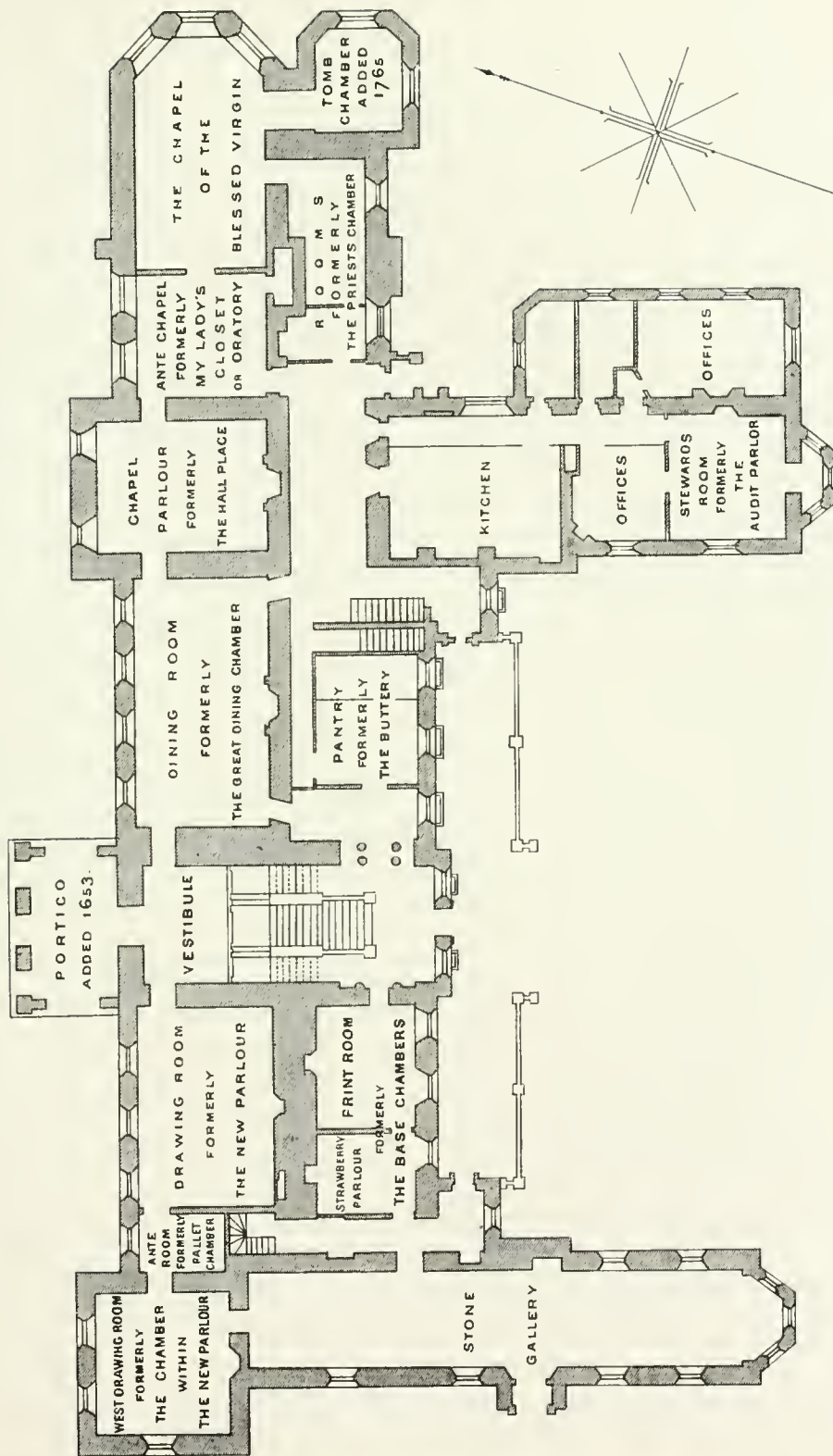
2. Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, only son of the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth. He died, in the service of the Parliament, September 14, 1646.

3. Elizabeth, Countess of Essex, daughter of Sir William Paulet, of Eddington, Wilts. She married the second Earl of Essex in 1631, who first met her at Elvetham, then the seat of the Earls of Hertford. Her story is told in Warner's "Hampshire," vol. i. p. 232.

4. Francis Lord Bacon. On the canvas is the date "1620 *anno ætat: 60.*" Macaulay, in his essay on Lord Bacon, tells how "in January 1620 he celebrated his entrance into his sixtieth year amidst a splendid circle of friends, having just then exchanged the appellation of Keeper for the higher one of Chancellor. Ben Jonson was one of the party, and wrote on the occasion some of the happiest of his rugged lines:—

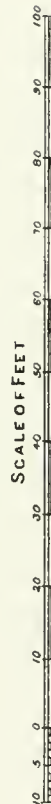
‘England’s high Chancellor, the destined heir,  
In his soft cradle, to his father’s chair;  
Whose even thread the Fates spin round and full  
Out of their choicest and their whitest wool.’”

Here

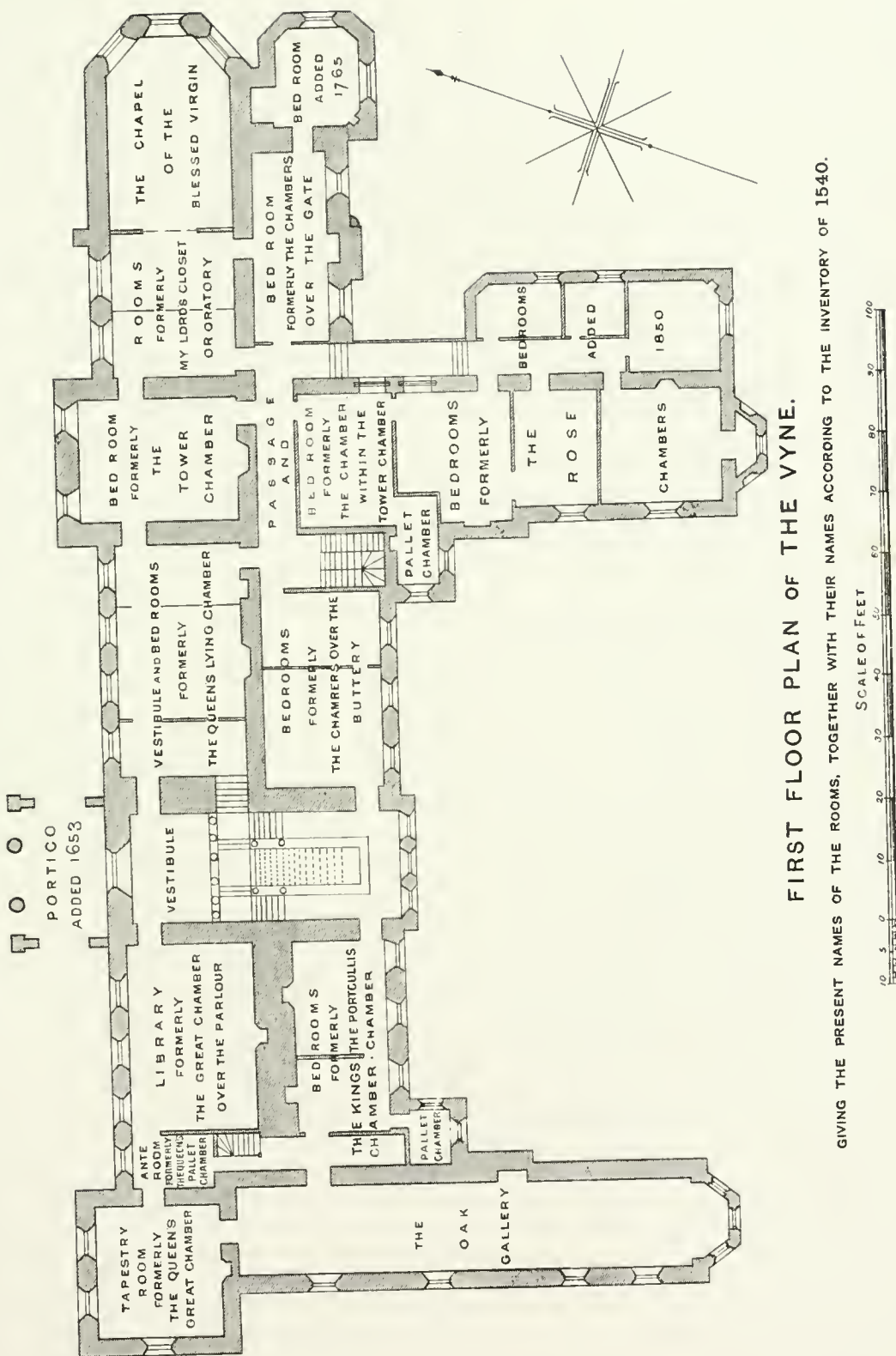


# GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF THE WYNE.

GIVING THE PRESENT NAMES OF THE ROOMS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR NAMES ACCORDING TO THE INVENTORY OF 1540.







FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF THE WYNE.

GIVING THE PRESENT NAMES OF THE ROOMS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR NAMES ACCORDING TO THE INVENTORY OF 1540.





Here also hang two interesting maps.

1. A rare map of London, by Morden, (67 in.  $\times$  96 in.) on the scale of 300 feet to the inch, published 1677. St. Paul's Cathedral is drawn from the first of the designs which Wren made after the Fire of London, and which he was subsequently compelled to alter through the influence of the Duke of York, who wished for a cathedral more adapted to the Roman Catholic ritual. The names of the principal men of the reign of Charles II. are printed on both sides of the map, but in this copy they have been covered over with a continuation of the design.

2. A map of England (74 in.  $\times$  79 in.) by John Adam, of the Inner Temple (author of the "Index Villaris," 1680), as it was reproduced, with additions, in the reign of William III.

On the west wall are eight Roman monumental marble tablets, brought from *columbaria* near Rome about 1730, and presented to John Chute by Edward, brother of Horace Walpole, about 1760. That numbered 4 was found on the road leading from Rome to Præneste (*Via Prænestina*); and that numbered 6 in a *columbarium* at the spot where the Appian and Latin roads parted within the wall of Aurelius.

The inscriptions on the marbles (which have been published by Mommsen, Muratori, and Böckh in their collections of Latin and Greek inscriptions) are as follows:—

1. "DMS HERENNIE NICE. V. A. III M. VIII D. XVI ANICETUS  
PATER FECIT.

"CONDITA SUM NICE QUÆ JAM DULCISSIMA PATRI  
DUCENS ÆTATIS TENERÆ JAM QUATTUOR ANNOS  
ABREPTA A SUPERIS FLENTES JAM LIQUI PARENTES." <sup>1</sup>

Sacred

<sup>1</sup> See *Mura-*  
*tore's Inscrip-*  
*tions*, vol. ii.  
p. mclxxi.

Sacred to the gods below : To Herennia Nikê : she lived three years, eight months, sixteen days. Anicetus, her father, erected this.

I, Nikê, father's darling child, here lie ;  
While the fourth year of tender age went by,  
I left my weeping parents, snatched by the gods on high.

2. "DIIS MANIBUS : SEPTIMLÆ I. F. SEVERÆ SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS MATRI SANCTISSIMÆ ET COMMODO CONJUGI EJUS FECIT SIBI LIB. LIBERTABUS POSTERISQUE OMNIBUS. IN FRONT. P. IIIS. IN AGR. P. IIIS." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Murator*,  
vol. iii.  
p. mclxxvii.

Septimius Severus erected this for Septimia Severa, daughter of Julia, his most pious mother, and for Commodus her husband, and for himself and his freedmen and freedwomen and descendants. The dimensions are,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet along the road, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet into the field.

These Roman monumental inscriptions frequently mentioned the extent of the family burial ground. Thus Horace writes satirically of the public burial ground on the Esquiline Mount—

"Mille pedes in fronte, trecentos cippus in agrum  
Hic dabat."—SAT. i. 8, 12.

3. "Κ. (i.e. καταχθονίαις) ΒΗΡΥΛΛΟΣ ΕΖΗΣΕΝ ΕΤΗ Κ.Β. ΚΑΙ ΗΜΕΡΑΝ Η ΜΗΤΗΡ ΤΟΝ ΤΟΗΟΝ ΕΗΘΗΣΕΝ." <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Murator*,  
vol. ii.  
p. mclxlii.  
*Böckh*, vol. iii.  
p. 950.

To the Gods below. Beryllus lived twelve years and a day. His mother put up the tomb.

4. "Θ. Κ. (θεοῖς καταχθονίαις), ΑΙΛΙΩ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΩ ΘΕΩΝ ΣΥΝΤΡΟΦΟΣ ΕΠΕΓΡΑΨΕ." <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Murator*,  
vol. iii.  
p. mdccxiv.  
*Böckh*, vol. iii.  
p. 979.

To Ælius Dionysius Theon, his comrade, inscribed this.

5. "D. M. QUINTUS AURELIUS PROCULUS FECIT SIBI ET SUIS POSTERISQUE EORUM ET VALERLÆ COGNITÆ UXORI PIENTISSIMÆ LIBERTIS LIBERTABUSQUE EORUM. NE DE NOMINE EXEAT." <sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Mommsen*,  
vol. vi. pt. ii.  
p. 1597.

Quintus Aurelius Proculus erected this for himself and his family and their posterity, and for Valeria Cognita his wife, and their freedmen and freedwomen. The land is not to go away from the name.

The

The final words mean that the gentile name was, if necessary, to be taken by the *liberti* and *libertæ*, who would thus become liable to the *sacra gentilitia*.

6. "D M S. AURELIUS ÆPAFRODITUS AURELIO FELICISSIMO FILIO DULCISSIMO QUI VIXIT ANNIS XXIII M. VI DIEBUS XI HORIS XII BENEMERENTI FECIT." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Mommson*,  
vol. vi. pt. ii.  
p. 1588.

Aurelius Epaphroditus to his son Aurelius, who lived twenty-three years, six months, eleven days, twelve hours.

7. "P. QUINTIUS LÆTUS FECIT SIBI ET MARCIÆ LIBERALI CONJUGI SUÆ BENEMERENTI ET MARCIÆ PRIMIGENIÆ LIBERÆ EJUS." <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Muralori*,  
vol. iii.  
p. mcccxcv.

P. Quintius Lætus to himself, and Marcia Liberalis his wife, and Marcia Primigenia her daughter.

8. "DIS MANIBUS. HILARITAS MATURO AMICO BENEMERENTI FECIT : LUCILA." <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* vol. iii.  
p. mcdlxviii.

Hilaritas to Maturus her friend—Lucila.

Here are also several antique marbles and some well-executed busts from Italy, purchased in 1753, viz. : Antinous, Caracalla, Faustina (the beautiful daughter of Antoninus Pius, married to Marcus Aurelius), Homer, Jupiter, Lucius Annæus Verus (the shortlived son of Faustina), Nero, and Sylla.

This gallery leads to the WEST DRAWING ROOM, hung with crimson and white silken damask, purchased in Italy about 1760. The oval portrait of John Chute by Muntz (a painter often mentioned in Horace Walpole's letters), and the view of the Vyne by the same artist, were formerly at Strawberry Hill. Two good landscapes by Poussin, and a fox and a pointer by the French painter Oudry, may also be noticed. A marble  
table

table, a present from one of the Walpole family, has the Walpole arms inlaid.

In the inventory of 1541 this room was called "the chamber within the New Parlour," and contained the following furniture:

"A bed with a counterpane of verder,\* yellow and grene.

A Flanders chaire covered with lether.

An old joyned stole.

A trussing bedd of waynscot with iiij pillars carved."

This room opens into a smaller ANTE-ROOM, in the centre of which stands a Florentine *pietra dura* casket, brought from Italy about 1760. It is of remarkable beauty, set with a mosaic of agates, amethysts, bloodstones, cornelians, lapis lazuli, and other stones, representing fruits and flowers. Here are also cabinets filled with Bow, Chelsea, Italian Majolica, and Oriental blue china.

In 1541 this room was "the Palet Chamber within the New Parlour," and contained a bed with a counterpane of "outnalle."†

Beyond this is the DRAWING ROOM, 30 feet in length, which is also hung with crimson and white damask. The furniture for this room (six sofas and twelve chairs) was made about 1760, and covered with similar damask.

The pictures include sacred subjects by Andrea del Sarto, Correggio, and Francia; "Sunrise" and "Moonlight" by S. Pether; "Rome" by Claude; "The Hague" by Vander Heyden; and portraits of John Chute by Pompeo Battoni, and of Francis Whithed and Margaret Nichol<sup>1</sup> by Rosalba.

<sup>1</sup> See pp. 100, 101, *ante*.

\* Representing forest scenery.

† Perhaps intended for "wadmaal," a coarse wadded stuff of the period.

In

In 1541 this room was called "The New Parlour." It was hung with valuable tapestry, and contained the following furniture:—

"A riche bedd of greene velvet and saten, garnished with roses and pomegarnettes with this posy 'Help God;'

A counterpoint of Parke worke \* with beastes and fowles ;

A matterass of fustian stuffed with wolle ;

A bedstede with iiij greate pillers all gilt, with iiij pomelles all gilt ;

A cupboard carpet, Turkey making, iij yerdes ;

A Flanders cheire covered with lether ;

A myddell payr of andyeorns ;

A lyvery † cubbord ;

A table of fyre iv yarges."

Hence a vestibule opens upon the Grecian Portico already mentioned<sup>1</sup> as having been added to the house in 1654.

<sup>1</sup> P. 137, *ante*.

In 1541 there was here a room called "The Parlour," hung with "Imagery Tapestry," and furnished with—

"A table and a pair of trestles of waynscott ;

ij joyned chairs, one with an antelope, another with a harte ;

iiij joyned stoles ;

iiij joyned formes ;

A skrene of wickers."

This vestibule contains busts of the Belvidere Apollo, and of Achilles ; and there are sometimes standing in it two large vases of repoussé silver of fine manufacture, bearing the English hall mark of 1650, measuring with their tops 2 feet in

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\* See note, p. 25.

† *Livrey*, *Fr.* *livrée*, denoted whatever was dispensed by the lord to his officials, domestics, or guests : here it means an allowance of meat or drink.

height, and weighing, one 169, the other 174 ounces. They are said to have been taken by Lord Anson from a Spanish galleon in 1740.

Beyond this is the DINING ROOM, 38 feet in length, panelled with oak: it was at one time painted blue, and is studded with small gilded bosses, which gave it the name of "The Starred Parlour." In 1541 it was called "The great dynyng chamber," and contained the following furniture<sup>1</sup>:—

<sup>1</sup> See p. 51, *ante*.

"ix peces of hangings of Imagery with borders of Anticke and my lordes arms ;

iiij wyndowe peces ;

v curteyns of Bridges satin ;

A large fyne carpet of Turkey making, v × iiij yarges ;

Another Turkey carpet for a cubbord with a deyse ;

A cubbord of boardes with a deyse ;

A chayer of black velvit trymed or garnyshed with golde olde ;

A great payr of anndyerns of iron ;

A large table of ffyrre, with a payr of trestelles v yards long ;

v cushhins of redd tynsell lyned with damask of a yerd and iiij nailes apece ;

ij other cushhins of crymsen velvit and Redd tynsell lyned with damask ;

ij cushhyns of Bawdekyn, one Redd, another Grene, lyned with damaske ;

A cushhyn of blewe damaske a yard scant ;

ij cushhyns of redd and blew damaske square ;

iiij cushhynes of Tawny velvit old, of a yard long ;

A cushhyn of clothe of gold lyned with redd damaske ;

A dozen of cushhennes, very sore worne and old, of Roses and Pomegarnerdes ;

A dozen of other cushhyns of dyvers sortes, sore worne and old."

The



The pictures include Dudley, third Lord North, and his father Sir John North,<sup>1</sup> and Chrysogona Lady Dacre as a child.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1, 2</sup> See p. 73, ante.

Beyond the dining-room is the CHAPEL PARLOUR, panelled with wainscot of a rich linen pattern. The Tudor fireplace of Purbeck marble is surmounted by a carved oak mantelpiece with the date 1691. There is a curious mirror between the windows, having in the centre a sun with four rays. In 1541 this room was the "Hall place between the great chamber and the closet" (or oratory), and its only furniture was—

"One piece of hanging of green say," and a "clocke, large, with a chyme."

Over the fireplace is a copy of the Aurora, by Guido, in the Rospigliosi Palace, Rome,

"Quadrijugis invectus equis Sol aureus exit,  
Cui septem variis circumstant vestibus Horæ."

The pictures include—

Charles Brandon,<sup>3</sup> Duke of Suffolk, brother-in-law of Henry VIII., by Holbein.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 39, ante.

Winifred, the Nun of Cufaude,<sup>4</sup> by La Belle, dated 1707, in the dress of a canoness of the order of St. Augustine. She was the daughter of Symeon Cufaude and niece of John Cufaude, who are both named in the pedigree of the Cufaude family, which hangs in the Library. John died in 1701, aged ninety, having in 1697 settled<sup>5</sup> a sum of 50*l.* a year for four years—a nun's portion—upon "his niece Winifred Cufaude, spinster."

<sup>4</sup> See p. 38, ante.

<sup>5</sup> *Deed of May 17, 1697, preserved at the Lyne.*

Mary, daughter of George Nevill, Lord Abergavenny, m. Thomas Fienes, ninth Baron Dacre,<sup>6</sup> by Holbein, or Lucas de Heere.

<sup>6</sup> See pp. 73-4, ante.

Beyond

Beyond the Chapel Parlour is the ANTECHAPEL. Here, in 1541, was "My lady's Closet," or oratory, "next the Chapel," which contained, according to the inventory of that date—

"vj peces of hangings of greate flowers with my Lordes armes in the garter ;

ij peces of small hangings of Imagery for the wyndowes in the closet."

A carved stone head of Edward III., a relic of the first Chantry Chapel of the Vyne,<sup>1</sup> and several sacred pictures, including the "Last Supper," by Ferretti, presented by Horace Walpole,<sup>2</sup> are in this antechapel.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 19, *ante*.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 111, *ante*.

The two mullioned windows, each of three lights, contain in the upper panes heraldic glass, displaying the following arms and badges, most of which belong to families who have been already mentioned in connection with the Vyne.

1. The Royal Tudor Rose.

2. St. John, quartering seven other coats (Herbert, Delamere, Roos, Hussey, Walsh, Skelton, Irby), with Paulet of Basing on an escutcheon of pretence.

3. Brocas quartering Roches.

4. Sandys impaling the coats of Foster of Aldermaston, Popham (combined with Clarke), Delamere, and Achard.

5. Power of Worcestershire quartering Washbourne and D'Abbitot of the same county. (This coat is tricked in facsimile in the Book of Heraldic Visitations of Worcestershire, 1569.<sup>3</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> *Harleian MS.* 1532, fol. 32.

6. De Vere quartering Howard.

7. Bray quartering Bray.

8.

8. Long quartering the arms of France as an augmentation for distinguished service in the French wars, in which Sir Henry Long was a comrade of William, first Lord Sandys.

The lower part of these windows is filled with fragments of the rich painted glass placed in the Chapel of the Holy Ghost at Basingstoke by the first Lord Sandys, and of the same date, therefore, as the glass in the Vyne Chapel.

Peter Heylyn, chaplain of Charles I. and biographer of Laud, mentions this glass,<sup>1</sup> together with that of Fairford and Canterbury, as having survived the Reformation. <sup>1</sup> See p. 40. *ante*.

From this Antechapel doors of open woodwork give access to THE CHAPEL, which has been described in Chapter II.

Through the Chapel is the TOMB CHAMBER built by John Chute to receive the monument of his ancestor the Speaker, one of the best works of Thomas Banks, R.A., who also executed the recumbent figure of Reginald Brocas in the neighbouring church of Bramley.

This monument is inscribed with a notice<sup>2</sup> of the Speaker, and the names of his descendants, with their coats of arms, as follows :— <sup>2</sup> See pp. 67, 76. *ante*.

East side : The Arms of Chaloner Chute the Speaker, bearing those of Ann Skory, his first wife, on an escutcheon of pretence, and impaling those of Dorothy Lady Dacre, his second wife ; above which are the sword and mace,<sup>3</sup> the emblems of the Speaker's authority. <sup>3</sup> See *headpiece*, p. 67. *ante*.

North side : The Arms of Chaloner, son of the Speaker, impaling those of Catherine Lennard his wife ; also the Arms of Chaloner, eldest grandson of the Speaker.

South

South side: The Arms of Edward, second grandson of the Speaker, impaling those of Katharine Keck his wife; on the left of which are those of Anthony and John, sons of Edward; also the Arms of Thomas Chute, third grandson of the Speaker, with those of his wife Elizabeth Rivett on an escutcheon of pretence; on the right of which are those of Thomas Lobb Chute, grandson of Thomas Chute, with those of his wife Ann Rachael Wiggett on an escutcheon of pretence.

West side: A shield of 25 quarterings, viz.—(1\*) Chute; (2\*) Say; (3) Mandeville; (4) Eudo; (5\*) Chaloner; (6) Mortimer; (7 and 8\*) Skory; (9\*) Lanyon; (10\*) De la Launde; (11) Harford; (12\*) Hertford; (13) Scrope; (14) Tibetot; (15) Badlesmere; (16) FitzBernard; (17) Aguillon; (18) Clare; (19) Gifford; (20) St. Hillary; (21) Fitzroy; (22) FitzHamond; (23) FitzGerald; (24\*) Keck; (25\*) Thorne.

The nine coats marked \* are also on a shield in the Tapestry Room.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See p. 161, *post*.

<sup>2</sup> *Granger's Biographical History*, vol. vi. p. 146.

The windows were painted by John Rowell in 1770; he is said<sup>2</sup> to have “rediscovered the art of the beautiful red, so conspicuous in our old windows.”

On the west wall hangs a fine woodcut 8 feet 6 inches in length, dated 1508, called “The Triumph of Faith,” designed by Titian. It represents our Saviour in a chariot drawn by the four Latin doctors, St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Gregory, preceded by the Old Testament saints, the Evangelists, and the Holy Innocents, and followed by the Apostles, Martyrs, and Fathers of the Church with their appropriate symbols, ending with St. Christopher, St. Francis, and St. Benedict.

Returning

Returning hence to the GRAND STAIRCASE; the north-west vestibule on the first floor, (in which are pictures by Ghisolfi, Muntz, Ryder, and others), leads into two bedrooms, which in 1541 were together with the vestibule one chamber, known as the QUEEN'S LYING CHAMBER, from its having been occupied by Anne Boleyn on the occasion of her visit to the Vyne, October 13, 1535.<sup>1</sup> It was then furnished with—

<sup>1</sup> See p. 46.  
*ante.*

“v pieces of hanginges of fyne Imagery with borders of anticke ;

A celer and tester of clothe of gold and Russett velvet, pired with gold, paned, and a valance of the same fringed with silke and gold, with ij curtaynes of yellow and Russet and yellow saten paned and quylted, containing xv yerdes ;

A counterpoynt \* of water flowers ;

A bedd with a bolster of Downe of ix quarters, marke 16 ; †

A materys of fustian stuffed with woll ;

A trusse bedsted with iiij gilt pillers and pomelles gilt ;

A little cubbord carpet, Turkey making ;

A lyvery cubbord with ij almeres ;

A fflanders chayer ;

A payr of myddell andeirons ;

ij wyndow curtaynes, chaungeable sarcenet lyned with buckeram containing xiiij yerdes.”

Beyond this are the TOWER CHAMBER, which leads into MY LORD'S CLOSET OVER THE CHAPEL.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See p. 24.  
*ante.*

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\* There was a diversity of counterpanes in the house : thus, in the “Inner Rose Chamber,” the coverlet of the bed was “of Parke worke, with a lyon and a griffyn over the same.” In the “Ynner Chamber over the Bultry” was a “counterpoynt of Imagry.” In the “Myddle Base Chamber” was a “counterpoynt of the Birth of our Lorde ;” and in the “Ynner Base Chamber” “an old counterpoynt of Arras, very sore worne and broken.”

† It is significant of careful housekeeping that all the bolsters and counterpanes were marked with separate numbers.

The

The south-east vestibule of the staircase opens into a room formerly known as the PORTCULLIS CHAMBER, from the well-known Tudor badge, as another in the house was called the "ROSE CHAMBER" after the Tudor rose.

The Portcullis Chamber leads into "THE KING'S CHAMBER," furnished in 1541 with—

"v small peces of Imagery ;

A celer and tester of grene velvit upon velvit purled, paned with clothe of gold, with a valaunce of the same fringed with silk and gold ;  
v curtains of sarcenet yelow and grene."

Off this chamber a door opens into the OAK GALLERY (Plate XII.), which occupies the entire length (82 feet) of the western wing of the house, and was originally, like the cloister walks (*ambulacra*) of older buildings, intended as a place for exercise. Thus Chaucer, describing a mansion, speaks<sup>1</sup> of—

<sup>1</sup> The "Assembly of Ladies," stanza 24.

"The galeryes right well ywrought  
For daunsing and other wyse disport."

In 1541 it was furnished with—

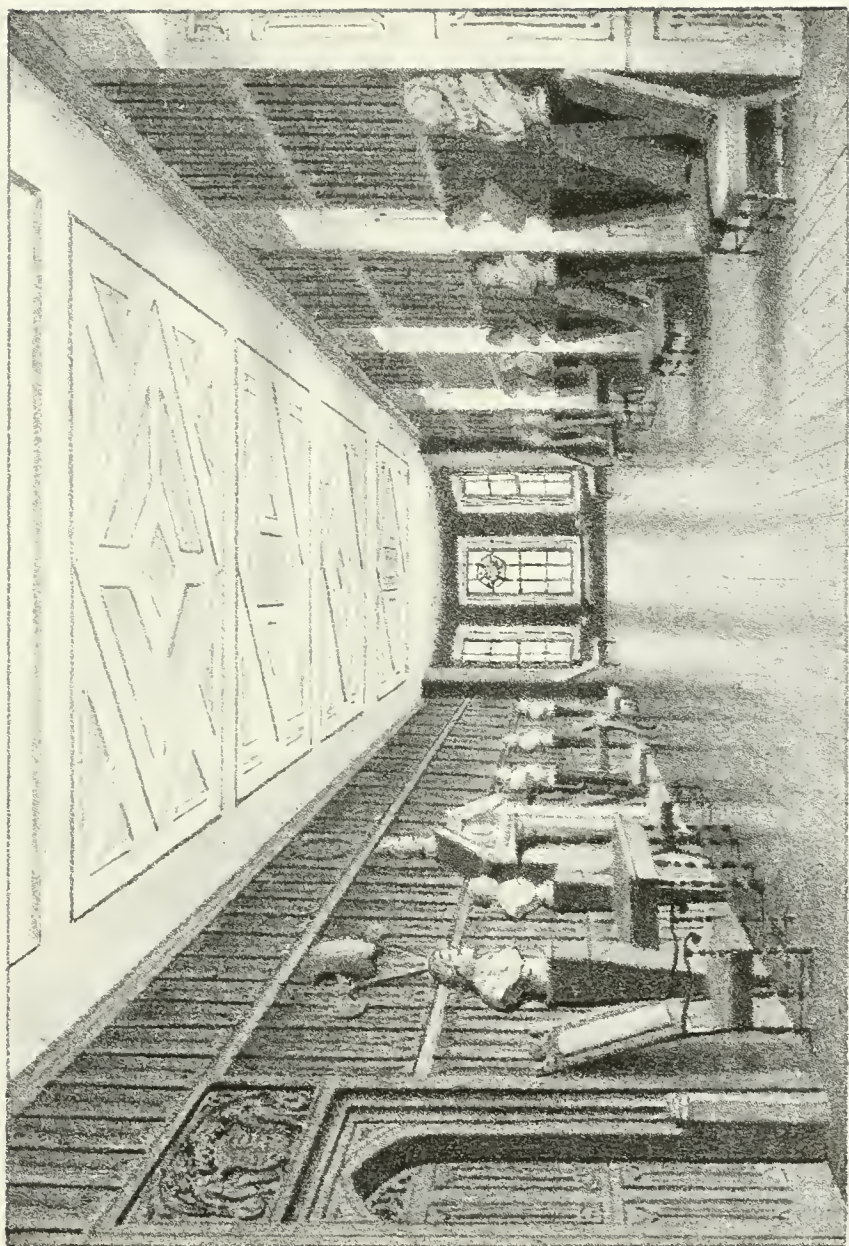
"vj curtayns of sarcenet paned redd and grene ;  
v dornex \* carpetes rayling in the wyndowes ;  
ij Turkey carpettes ;  
A Spanishe folding chaire ;  
ij small tables of waynscot ;  
Another small table or cubbord of waynscot with a bottom carved ;  
ij small creepers of Iron."

Over the door in the eastern wall are the Royal Arms of England, richly carved, supported by two angels, each of whom

\* A coarse cloth originally made at Tournay, called in Flemish "Dornick."

bears







bears in his hand a circle ; one displaying the arms (the cross ragulée), the other the crest (the winged ibex), of the Sandys family.<sup>1</sup>

The gallery is panelled throughout with oak wainscoting, each panel containing an intricately carved linen scroll, above

and below which occurs some ornamental or heraldic device. Of these panels there are upwards of four hundred, and the heraldic devices displayed upon them are those of King Henry VIII. of Queen Katharine of Arragon, of the first Lord Sandys of the Vyre, and of his friends:—

(1.) HERALDIC DEVICES OF  
KING HENRY VIII.  
AND KATHARINE OF  
ARRAGON.

The Royal Arms of  
England.

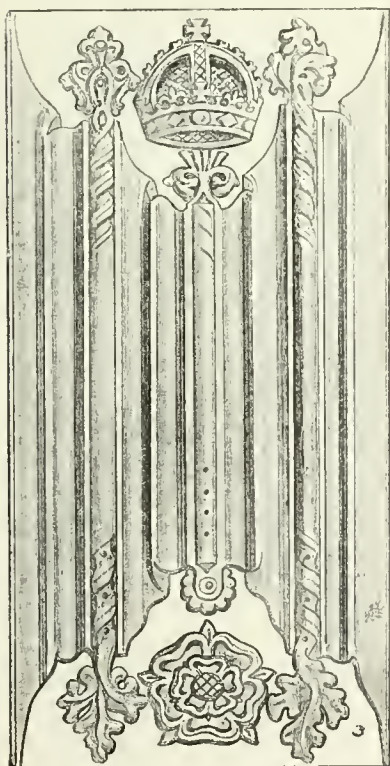
The Crown of King  
Henry the Seventh.

The Fleur de lys.

The Tudor Rose, being the roses of York and Lancaster united one within the other.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See headpiece  
to Table of  
Contents, p. v,  
ante.

<sup>2</sup> See headpiece,  
p. 164, post.



<sup>1</sup> See headpiece,  
p. 135, *ante*.

The Portcullis.<sup>1</sup>

The St. George's Cross, for the Order of the Garter.

The legend "King Harri."

The arms of Katharine of Arragon (b. Dec. 15, 1485, near Toledo; m. Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., Nov. 14, 1501; m.



King Henry VIII., June 7, 1509; divorced May 23, 1533; died at Kimbolton Jan. 7, 1536): being 1 and 4 the arms of Castile and Leon; 2 and 3 those of Arragon, with a pomegranate in the base point of the escutcheon.

The bursting pomegranate,<sup>2</sup> and the sheaf of arrows,<sup>3</sup> badges

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> See tailpiece,  
p. 10, *ante*.

of Katharine of Arragon.

<sup>4</sup> See headpiece,  
p. 135, *ante*.

The triple-crowned castle of Castile.<sup>4</sup>

## II. THE HERALDIC DEVICES OF WILLIAM, FIRST LORD SANDYS OF THE VYNE, AND HIS FRIENDS.

<sup>5</sup> *Guillim*,  
4th ed. p. 382.



<sup>6</sup> See headpiece,  
p. 29, *ante*.

1. The arms of SANDYS: on a field *pearl* a cross raguled and trunked *diamond*<sup>5</sup> with those of Bray upon an escutcheon of pretence.

The crest of Sandys, the winged head of an ibex.<sup>6</sup>

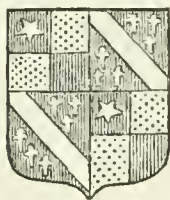
<sup>7</sup> See tailpiece,  
p. 66, *ante*.

The badge of Lord Sandys, a demi-rose surmounted by rays of the sun.<sup>7</sup> The mottoes, "*Aide Dieu*," "Help God," "Good Hope." The cyphers, W. S. (William Sandys) and T. S. (Thomas Sandys).

2. The shield of Bray (as in the escutcheon of pretence on No. 1); and the "Bray" or "Hempbreaker,"<sup>1</sup> for SIR REGINALD BRAY, Knight of the Garter, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under Henry VII., d. 1503. Margery, his niece and heiress, m. William, first Lord Sandys.



3. The arms of Brocas of Beaurepaire, for WILLIAM BROCAS, Master of the Royal Buckhounds, owner of the Vyne, d. April 29, 1456; and his son Bernard Brocas, owner of the Vyne 1456-1488. Some account of them, and of their descent from Sir Bernard Brocas, has been already given.<sup>2</sup>



4. The arms of De Vere, quartering Howard, for JOHN DE VERE, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, Great Chamberlain, Knight of the Garter, Privy Councillor to Henry VIII.; d. 1539. He was great-nephew of John de Vere, twelfth Earl of Oxford, who brought the estates and arms of Howard into the family by his marriage with Elizabeth, only daughter and sole heiress of Sir John Howard, uncle of John Howard, first Duke of Norfolk.



5. The arms of the family of Essex, county Wilts, for SIR WILLIAM ESSEX, of Easton Percey in that county, Lord Treasurer and Privy Councillor of Henry VIII.; arrested in 1537 for complicity with the Yorkshire Rebellion of 1536. His son Thomas married Margaret, daughter of William first Lord Sandys of the Vyne.





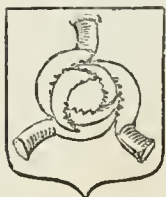
6. The arms of Foster, quartering Delamere, Popham, and Achard, for SIR HUMPHRY FOSTER, of Aldermaston, co. Berks, Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII. at Boulogne 1520; Steward of Stratfield Mortimer 1521; High Sheriff of Berkshire 1533; keeper of Fremantle Park 1542. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William, first Lord Sandys of the Vyne.



7. The arms of Fox, a "pelican in her piety," for RICHARD FOX, BISHOP OF WINCHESTER; born, 1466, near Grantham, educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, and Pembroke Hall, Cambridge; Bishop of Exeter and Master of St. Cross, Winchester, 1487; Bishop of Bath and Wells 1491, of Durham 1494, of Winchester 1501; arranged the marriage of the Princess Margaret with James IV. of Scotland, 1501; founder of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 1516 (which bears his arms); d. September 14, 1528, and buried under a canopied tomb of great magnificence in the nave of Winchester Cathedral.

<sup>1</sup> See *heraldpiece*, p. 11, *ante*.

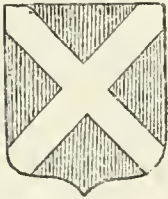
Also the letters R. F. with a crozier.<sup>1</sup>



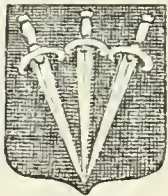
8. The device of Hungerford, "three sickles," for SIR WALTER HUNGERFORD, summoned to Parliament as Baron Hungerford of Heytesbury, June 8, 1536; married Alice, daughter of William, first Lord Sandys; charged, 1540, with "retaining a chaplain who called the King a heretic, and procuring certain persons to ascertain by conjuration



juration how long the King should live;" beheaded July 28, 1541.



9. The arms of Neville, "a silver saltire upon martial red," for RALPH LORD NEVILLE, only son of Ralph, sixth Baron Neville of Raby and third Earl of Westmoreland; married Edith, daughter of William, first Lord Sandys; d. 1522, in the lifetime of his father, leaving two children, Ralph and Anne.



10. The arms of Paulet, for WILLIAM PAULET of Basing, lineal descendant of the De Ports and St. Johns, anciently lords of the manor of the Vyne; Sheriff of the county of Southampton 1510; controller of the King's household 1538; created Baron St. John of Basing by Henry VIII. 1539; Knight of the Garter 1544; entrusted with the Great Seal 1547; created Marquis of Winchester by Edward VI. 1551; retained the favour of Queens Mary and Elizabeth "by being" (as he said) "a willow and not an oak;" d. at Basing 1572, aged ninety-six.

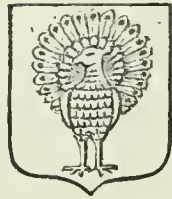


11. The badge of Paulet, a "falcon" with the initials H. P., for SIR HUGH PAULET, son of that Sir Amyas Paulet, of Hinton St. George, Somersetshire, treasurer of the Middle Temple, who put Wolsey in the stocks at Lymington, Somersetshire, in the reign of Henry VII., and in the next reign, hoping to appease his displeasure, rebuilt the gate of the Middle Temple, beautifying it with the Cardinal's arms

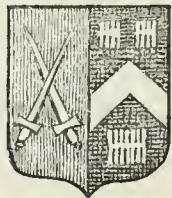
arms and devices. Sir Hugh was knighted 1544 for services in the French wars, was treasurer of Boulogne 1545, afterwards governor of Guernsey and Jersey ; d. 1578.



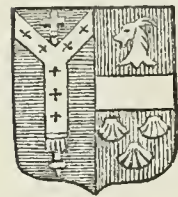
12. The arms of POWER, county Worcester, already mentioned as occurring in the painted glass of the Antechapel, where the arms of Power quarter those of Washbourn and D'Abbitot, on account of marriage alliances completed in the reign of Richard II.



13. The crest of ROOS for JOHN MANNERS, first BARON ROOS, whose third daughter Elizabeth m. Thomas, second Baron Sandys of the Vyne ; d. 1513, and was succeeded by his son Thomas Manners, who was created Earl of Rutland 1525.



14. The arms of the See of London impaling those of Tunstall, for CUTHBERT TUNSTALL, Bishop of London ; born about 1474 in Hertfordshire ; Master of the Rolls 1516 ; Bishop of London 1522 ; accompanied Wolsey's embassy to France 1527 ; Bishop of Durham 1530 ; imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth, and d. in prison 18 November, 1559.



15. The arms of the See of Canterbury impaling those of Warham, for WILLIAM WARHAM, Archbishop of Canterbury ; born at Malsbanger in the parish of Church Oakley, Hants, about 1460 ; educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford ; sent on an embassy to Philip Duke

Duke of Burgundy, to remonstrate against the assistance given by the Duchess to Perkin Warbeck, 1493 ; Master of the Rolls 1494 ; Bishop of London and Lord Keeper, 1502 ; Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor, 1504 ; resigned the Great Seal in favour of Wolsey, 1515 ; d. at St. Stephens, near Canterbury, 1532. He pleaded that his successor might not charge his executors with dilapidations, because he had expended above 30,000*l.* in building and repairing the edifices belonging to the archbishopric.



16. The arms of THOMAS WOLSEY ; b. at Ipswich, 1471 ; fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1495 ; King's Almoner, 1509 ; Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York, 1514 ; Cardinal and Lord Chancellor, 1515 ; Bishop of Durham, 1523 ; founded Cardinal's College, afterwards Christchurch, Oxford, 1525 ; Bishop of Winchester, 1529 ; deprived of Great Seal, 1529 ; d. November 29, 1530.

Also the cypher T. W. with two crosses, and with the Cardinal's hat and crozier.<sup>1</sup>

The arms of Hungerford, (whose device has been already mentioned), "*sable* two bars *argent*, and in chief three plates," also occur in the panels.

There are curious and grotesque devices on many of the panels, *e.g.*—

Goblets of various forms.<sup>2</sup>

Two swords in saltire with gauntlets.<sup>2</sup>

A head blowing two horns.<sup>2</sup>

A ram's head with tassels hanging from the horns.

A shield containing three escallops.

<sup>1</sup> See drawings, pp. 11, 28, ante.

<sup>2</sup> See drawings, pp. 1, 84, 121, ante.

A sword piercing a winged heart.

A winged helmet.

An animal emerging from a snail shell.

Curiously carved heads of men and women.

The motto "Cœur per cœur."

Over the fireplace is a gilt carving of St. George and the Dragon, the jewel of the Order of the Garter.

The armour on the walls dates from the seventeenth century.

The two portraits at the north end of the gallery are—

1. Frances Duchess of Richmond and Lennox (with the initials F. R. L. on her handkerchief).<sup>1</sup> She married first one Henry Prannell, 1597; secondly, the Marquess of Hertford, (whereupon Sir George Rodney wrote her a long copy of verses, answered by her in one of equal length, and then committed suicide); thirdly, Lodowick Stuart, Duke of Richmond and Lennox; and afterwards was ambitious of marrying King James I.

<sup>1</sup> See *Lodge's Portraits*,  
vol. v.

2. A lady in a richly ornamented costume of the later years of Queen Elizabeth, entitled Mrs. Penobscot, a name not to be traced in England. The State of Maine, in North America, was formerly inhabited by an Indian tribe called Penobscot, after which a town, river, and bay are named.

At the south end of the gallery are some of the old and curious washing stands on either side of a large tortoiseshell and ebony cabinet.

Among the statuary should be noticed:—

Rameses IV., an ancient Egyptian statue, in basalt.

The Laughing Faun.

Four

Four Cæsars: (1) Caligula, A.D. 37; (2) Nero, A.D. 54; (3) Galba, A.D. 68; (4) Antoninus Caracalla A.D. 211-217 (inscribed in error with the name Antoninus Pius).

The Infant Hercules.

Seneca, Milton, Mary Queen of Scots, and Shakespeare.

Pitt and Fox.

A door at the north end of the gallery leads into the TAPESTRY ROOM, so called from the fine tapestry with which it is hung, representing imaginary scenes of Eastern life.

The elaborate mantelpiece in this room (Plate XI., p. 135), with the figures of "Justice" and "Mercy" on it, was formerly in the Chapel Parlour.<sup>1</sup> It bears, in a richly carved shield, the arms of Chute, Say, Chaioner, Skory, De la Launde, Lanyon, Hertford, Keck, and Thorne. The crests surmounting the shield are those of Chute and Keck.<sup>2</sup> The fireback is a curious representation of Neptune and his Trident.

<sup>1</sup> Warner's *Hampshire*, tit. "The Vine."

<sup>2</sup> See tailpiece to *List of Illustrations*, p. x, ante.

In 1541 this room was called the "Queen's Great Chamber," and contained the following furniture:—

"viiij pieces of fine Imagery hangings with a border of antike and my lordes armes with this posy 'Aides Dieu;'

A celer and tester of grene and crymson velvet paned, embroidered with my lordes armes, with his cognizance and the garter, with a valaunce fringed with silk and gold, with v curtains of Damaske, red and grene paned;

A large quilt of red satin lined with green buckeram:

A large counterpoynt of water flowers;

A bed of downe and a bolster, mark 15;

A trussing bed with iiij gilt pillars and iiij pomelles gilt:

An old chair of black velvit, sore worne, embroidered with gold:

A large pair of andirons with latten pomelles ;  
A cubberd carpet of Turkey making, ij yards long ;  
A lyvery cubbord ;  
iiij curtains of satin of Bruges, paned red and yellow ;  
A looking glass gilt."

Beyond the Tapestry Room is an ANTE-ROOM known in 1541 as the Queen's Pallet Chamber, when it contained a "large feather bed with a large counterpoynt, with St. George over the same."

This room is now hung with curious tapestry of French workmanship of the date of Louis XIII., the subject being Dido receiving Æneas, and Troy burning in the distance.

Beyond this ante-room is the LIBRARY. In 1541 it was called "The Great Chamber over the New Parlour," and contained—

"Five pieces of hanging fyne Imagery with the History of Cupid ;

A celer and testour of yellow and white damask paned, with a valaunce of the same, fringed with v curtains of the same stuff and colour, and a counterpoynt of the same, likewise paned, lined with red buckeram ;

A bed of downe with a ray French Tyck, marke 11, and a bolster to the same ;

A matteras of fustian stuffed with wool ;

A Flanders bedsted with iiij pomelles gilt ;

A pair of andirons ;

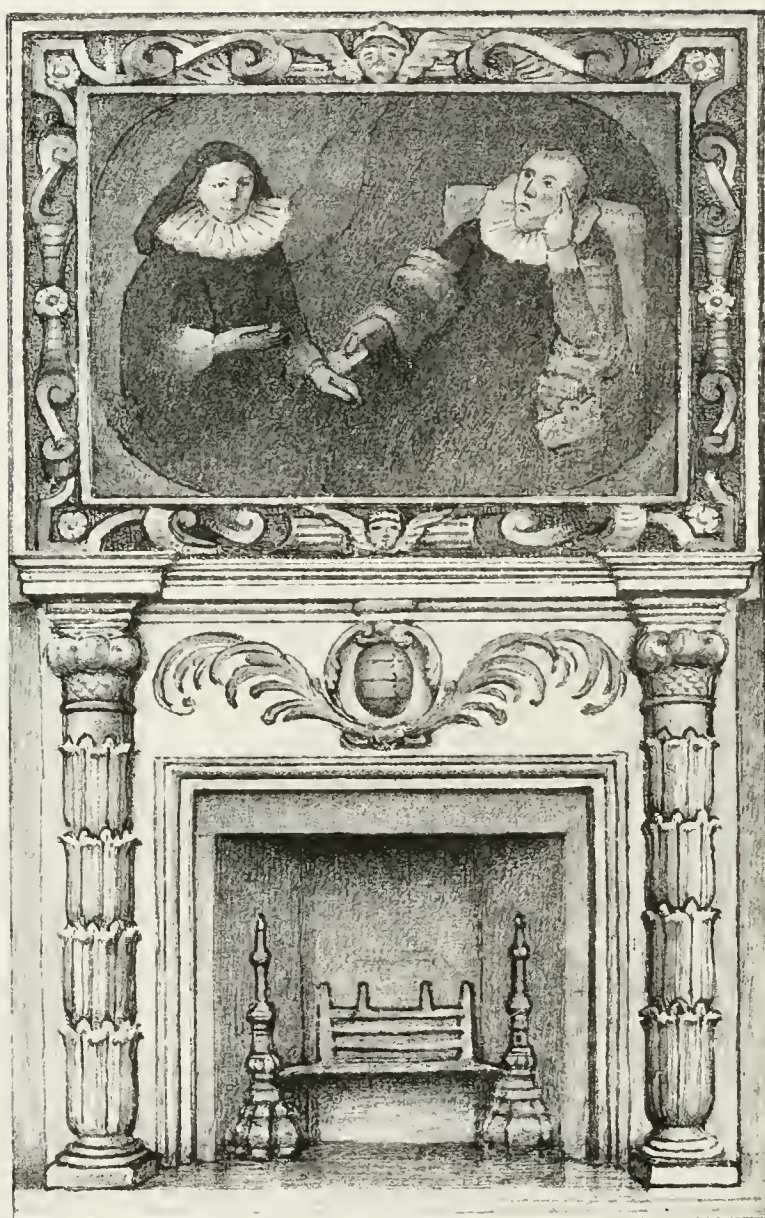
A Flanders chair covered with leather ;

A lyvery cubboard of oak."

The fine stone fireplace (Plate XIII.) has an overmantel containing the portrait of Arthur Chute and his wife Elizabeth,







beth, grandfather and grandmother of the Speaker. On the canvas is written—

“Pura qui Domino fide orabit  
Huic pacem et veniam dabit.”

There is a tradition that they are represented receiving the news of the death of their son. Their ages are written on the canvas: his age as eighty, and hers as seventy.

Here are two cabinets, fine examples of lacquer work—the one of old Oriental, the other of French manufacture.

The crest of Lord Sandys, and the hempbreaker of Margery Bray his wife, are in the oak panels over the windows.

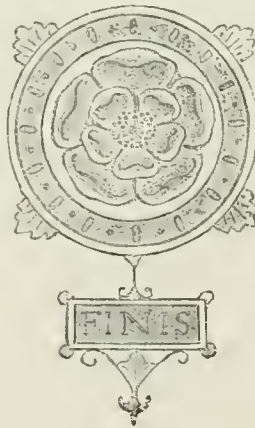
In this library hangs the illuminated pedigree of the Cufaude family, of which mention has been made.<sup>1</sup> It was found about 1760 in Basingstoke stopping up a cottage window; was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries in 1882; and a paper read on it June 22 in that year. The first arms quartered with those of Cufaude are those of Helen, daughter of Richard Kingsmill, temp. Henry VI.

On either side of the fireplace are the portraits of Chaloner Chute the Speaker, by Vandyck, and Lady Dacre of Hurstmonceaux, his second wife, by or after the same artist. She is wearing the pearl necklace which she bequeathed to her grandson, Thomas Chute, from whom it has descended as an heirloom to successive owners of the Vyne. There is a similar portrait of her at Belhus, Essex, attributed to Vandyck, a copy of which is in the Queen's Lying Chamber.<sup>2</sup> By a codicil to her will, dated March 1694, she bequeathed the “portrait of herself, by Sir Anthony Vandyck,” to her grandson Thomas Chute

Chute. The portrait of Chaloner Chute the Speaker was included in the Loan Collection of National Portraits in London, 1868.

Here this account of the Vyne may come to a fit conclusion, leaving us before the portrait of one of its most illustrious owners. May the courage and wisdom displayed by him in one great crisis of our national history, and by the first Lord Sandys of the Vyne in another, not be wanting, should occasion arise, to those who shall hereafter possess this ancient and historic house.

“Ecquid in antiquam virtutem animosque viriles,  
Et pater Æneas, et avunculus excitet Hector?”



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